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Page 14



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Page 28

Aruba TODAY

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President Barack Obama gestures while speaking at an event with American health care workers fighting the Ebola virus, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Obama on Ebola Fight: US Can't Seal Itself Off

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pushing to confront Ebola at its West African source, President Barack Obama said Wednesday the United States was not immune to the disease but cautioned against discouraging American health

care workers with restrictive measures that confine them upon their return from the afflicted region. "We can't hermetically seal ourselves off," he declared. Obama said doctors and nurses from the United States who have volunteered to fight Ebola in West Africa are American heroes

who must be treated with dignity and respect. His remarks came amid debate between the federal government and several states over how returning health care workers should be monitored. The White House has pushed back against overly restrictive measures, including pro-

posals for travel bans or isolation measures adopted by some states. "Yes, we are likely to see a possible case elsewhere outside of these countries, and that's true whether or not we adopt a travel ban, whether or not you adopt a quarantine," Obama said from the White House,

surrounded by health care workers who have volunteered or will volunteer to serve in Liberia, Sierra Leone or Guinea, where the disease has killed nearly 5,000.

Continued on page 3

A Funeral as Big as the Names His Paper Covered

PETER BAKER

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WASHINGTON - They came together to bid farewell to one of their own, Benjamin C. Bradlee, a "journalistic warrior" and "human blizzard." They paid tribute to his fearless fervor for a good story, his old-school patriotism, his impatient energy, his irreducible magnetism and his sailor's vocabulary. They mourned the passing not just of a larger-than-life figure but the bygone era he represented.

The legendary editor who helped force out a president and transformed American journalism, Bradlee long before his death had passed into icon status, as much an idea as a person. But at a power-packed funeral service at the Washington National Cathedral on Wednesday, his family, friends and admirers celebrated the man as well as the myth, offering a collective eulogy for a Washington that is no more.

"Ben's passing in some respects and in some very clear ways marks the end of the 20th century," Bob Woodward, who with his Watergate reporting partner Carl Bernstein personified Bradlee's take-no-prisoners reign at The Washington Post, told hundreds of fellow mourners at the cathedral. "He is gone and for that we are diminished and the world is smaller. I will never forget the leadership and the smile of this man we loved so much."

For Washington, it was a tribal event, one of those occasions like inaugurations or State of the Union addresses when the city briefly suspends the petty bickering, cynical spinning and strategic conniving to take stock and reflect on the lives and forces that shape its ways. The tribe, strained as it has been in recent years and on the verge of another election threatening a new seismic shift, assembled to grieve the loss of one of its leading protagonists.

The service for Bradlee, who died last week at 93, bore all the hallmarks of

capital ritual: boldface names that once appeared in the columns he edited, meticulous orchestration befitting a state din-

the couple's well-known Georgetown house, once owned by a son of Abraham Lincoln, for a reception featuring yellow boy

and bathrobe consulted with Woodward and Bernstein late at night on his front lawn, how his secretary had to sort through the

stars. The 18 pallbearers included a former Cabinet secretary (Joseph A. Califano Jr.) and the 25 ushers included a former senator (Tim Wirth).

Quinn, who founded a website on religion called On Faith, made sure the traditional Episcopal service led by the Very Rev. Gary Hall, dean of the cathedral; would include "Ave Maria," often performed at Roman Catholic funerals; and the kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead. The program featured a glamorous Annie Leibovitz photograph of a tanned and open-shirted Bradlee strolling on a beach. Barbra Streisand's "Evergreen" was performed along with the Navy Hymn, the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "America the Beautiful." The service closed, naturally enough, with "The Washington Post March."

Bradlee, played by Jason Robards in the film "All the President's Men," became the most celebrated newspaper editor of his generation, if not many generations.

Even his most grievous error, the publication of a reporter's fabricated article on an 8-year-old heroin addict, was largely forgiven despite the flaws it exposed in the system he had built.

After Bradlee retired as The Post's executive editor, he remained an active and visible figure both in the newsroom and in Washington social circles.

He was a living symbol of a more heroic image of journalism at a time when the trade had become increasingly challenged by financial shifts that have crippled many newspapers as well as by credibility issues that have left its public standing at a dismal low.

His son, Quinn Bradlee, 32, offered the most emotional eulogy, choking up and pausing to compose himself as recalled a father who had been distant from his other children but seemed determined to make up for it with his youngest. □



Bob Woodward speaks at Benjamin Bradlee's funeral service at the Washington National Cathedral, Oct. 29, 2014. The royalty of politics and media gathered at the cathedral Wednesday to celebrate the life of the Washington Post editor who became known as the quintessential newspaper editor of his era.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

ner and live coverage on C-SPAN. There were metal detectors, satellite trucks, buses of Post journalists, and a fair share of rubberneckers gathered outside the cathedral on Wisconsin Avenue.

After the pageantry of the two-hour funeral, was another Washington ritual, one perfected over the years by none other than Bradlee and his wife Sally Quinn, the journalist and prominent hostess.

Hundreds of friends and admirers descended on

martinis with yellow vermouth and the memories of a storied life.

Bradlee's death touched off a torrent of remembrances and tributes in recent days, often from the many journalists he hired and supported over the years as executive editor of The Post from 1968 to 1991. At the cathedral, many of the familiar old war stories were told - how John Mitchell threatened Katharine Graham's anatomy during Watergate, how Bradlee in pajamas

particular grammar of one of his favorite vulgarities.

Donald E. Graham, who took over as the Post's publisher and later chairman from his mother before selling the newspaper last year, recalled that Bradlee built a newsroom of hard-bitten journalists that "proudly had no heroes," as he put it. "But he was our hero," Graham said. "Benjamin C. Bradlee. And he will be always."

Others who spoke included Tom Brokaw, the retired NBC News anchor; David Ignatius, the Post columnist; Walter Pincus, a longtime Post reporter; and two of Bradlee's sons, Benjamin Jr. and Quinn.

The readers were Bradlee's daughter, Marina Bradlee Murdock; his stepdaughter, Rosamond Casey; his doctor, Michael Newman; the former Post publisher, Boiesfeillet Jones Jr.; and Gerald Rafshoon, who was President Jimmy Carter's White House communications director.

Among the dignitaries attending were Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry and Justice Stephen G. Breyer, as well as a phalanx of other political and journalistic



Secretary of State John Kerry and Vice President Joe Biden, far left, wave to each other at Benjamin Bradlee's funeral service at the Washington National Cathedral, Oct. 29, 2014.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

Israel snipes back after American official calls Netanyahu a coward

JODI RUDOREN

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JERUSALEM - What's the appropriate response to an anonymous slur hurled at an Israeli prime minister by a member of the Obama administration? Why, an anonymous accusation by an Israeli official tossed right back at Washington.

Israeli politicians spent most of Wednesday responding with outrage and concern to an article in *The Atlantic* quoting a senior U.S. official calling Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a "coward" - and also using a more colorful but vulgar synonym that starts with "chicken." Netanyahu and his allies decried such a personal attack as inappropriate, while his critics declared it evidence of the dangerous deterioration of the state's most treasured alliance that Netanyahu has caused.

Then, in late afternoon, a senior Israeli official offered a new spin.

"It appears that someone in the administration is trying to pre-empt Prime Minister Netanyahu's criticism of an imminent and highly problematic deal with Iran," said the official, speaking on the condition that he not be named, since that is how this game is played. "It is a transparent attempt to discredit the messenger instead of dealing with the substance of his criticism." It would be easy to write all this off as what Aaron David Miller, a veteran Washington observer on all things Middle East, called "the nanny-nanny-boo-boo kindergarten school," where "they call each other names." But there are serious underlying differences in Israel and the United States regarding the fate of Iran's nuclear program, and the downward dip between their leaders comes at a critical juncture.

With a Nov. 24 deadline looming, Israelis have watched, with rising concern, signs of an international deal that would allow Iran to preserve at least some of its nuclear program and in exchange see the lifting of crippling economic sanctions. Worse for Jerusalem, President Barack Obama's aides have indicated that they will try to bypass a vote on the deal in Congress, where Israel's support is strongest and Netanyahu has occasionally made direct appeals.

Netanyahu, who has spent much of his career arguing that a nuclear Iran is an existential threat to Israel, insists that allowing Iran to continue to enrich uranium at any level leaves it on the threshold of a producing a bomb and that a flawed deal is worse than no deal. "There is no way to bridge this gap, because whatever is acceptable to America is not acceptable to us," said Giora Eiland, a former Israeli national security adviser. "So there could be some kind of deliberate attempt to put Netanyahu in some kind of uncomfortable position, so when he says whatever he says in a month, it will be less relevant or attract less attention."

Or, it could be an attempt by the anonymous Israeli official to change the subject and deflect attention from his leader's character flaws, analysts said.

"Bibi's in some respects at war with himself," said Miller, using Netanyahu's nickname. "His bravado masks a lack of confidence. He's probably the most worried prime minister I've ever dealt with, and he worries about everything."

The sour relationship between Netanyahu and Obama is no secret and nothing new; the two have been disagreeing, sometimes politely and at other times far less so, since they both took office in 2009. In the *Atlantic* article, headlined "The Crisis in U.S.-Israel Relations Is Officially Here," Jeffrey Goldberg wrote that it is "now the worst it's ever been," an assessment shared by other analysts. □

Obama on Ebola Fight: US Can't Seal Itself Off

Continued from Front

"We have to keep in mind that if we're discouraging our health care workers, who are prepared to make these sacrifices, from traveling to these places in need, then we're not doing our job in terms of looking after our own public health and safety," he added.

Obama did not mention

in her home state of Maine.

The nurse, Kaci Hickox, said Wednesday that she planned to defy those guidelines if the state's policy didn't change by Thursday.

The White House has argued that stricter measures adopted by states such as New Jersey and New York could hurt efforts to recruit doctors and nurses to volunteer their services in

tion, should face isolation.

Still, the Pentagon announced guidelines Wednesday that said U.S. troops returning from Ebola response missions in West Africa will be kept in supervised isolation for 21 days. Obama has said the military's situation is different from that of civilians, in part because troops are not in West Africa by choice.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest rejected sug-



President Barack Obama smiles as he listens to Ebola survivor Dr. Kent Brantly, 33, speak at an event with American health care workers who are involved in the fight against Ebola, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

any specific case, but a nurse who treated Ebola patients in West Africa and has shown no signs of the disease was isolated in a hospital tent in New Jersey and now is abiding by a voluntary quarantine

West Africa.

The federal government's guidance says only health care workers who have been exposed to Ebola directly, such as through a needle pin prick or by not having adequate protec-

gestions that the policies employed by the Pentagon and states that are stricter than guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conveys a mixed message to the American public. □

Maine can't hold nurse without judge's order

ROBERT F. BUKATY

Associated Press

FORT KENT, Maine (AP) — A

nurse who treated Ebola patients in West Africa said Wednesday she plans to end her voluntary quarantine, signaling a potential showdown with state police monitoring her home and state officials seeking to legally enforce it.

State officials were seeking a court order allowing state troopers to detain Kaci Hickox, said Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew. Hickox, who

has shown no symptoms of Ebola, told NBC's "Today" show and ABC's "Good Morning America" she was abiding by the state's voluntary quarantine by having no contact with people Tuesday and Wednesday. But she said she'll defy the state if the policy isn't changed by Thursday.

"I remain appalled by these home quarantine policies that have been forced upon me even though I am in perfectly good health," Hickox said on "Today." Her lawyer Norman Siegel said she isn't willing to co-

operate further unless the state lifts "all or most of the restrictions." But state officials continued to assert that she should remain in isolation until Nov. 10, the end of the 21-day incubation period for Ebola. A judge would have to grant the state's request in what could serve as a test as to the legality of state quarantines during the Ebola scare. Until an order is signed by a judge, state police will monitor Hickox's movement and interactions if she leaves her home, Mayhew said. □

Democrats rush to save vulnerable incumbents

DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats already fighting to keep control of the Senate are now scrambling to save suddenly vulnerable House incumbents, amid fresh signs that the Republicans could expand their majority in the lower chamber by a wider margin than expected.

Some of the stiff challenges facing Democratic House candidate are coming in states where President Barack Obama cruised to double-digit victories just two years ago.

If the Republican momentum holds until the Nov. 4 election, it would show how much the party has recovered since their disappointing showing in 2012, when they failed to win the White House or control of the Senate, weighed down in part by tea party-backed right-wing candidates who alienated moderate voters.

This year, Republican leaders worked to keep the most radical candidates off congressional ballots. They have also benefited

from Obama's low popularity ratings, amid a litany of foreign policy woes and widespread sentiment that a tepid economic recovery has yet to improve lives. Both parties agree that the Republicans will hold its House majority; the question is whether Republicans can gain enough seats to rival their post-World War II high water mark of 246. The current breakdown is 233-199 in favor of the Republicans with three vacancies. The Republicans also have a good chance of wresting the Senate majority from the Democrats, which would hand them wide powers to thwart Obama's legislative agenda for the remainder two years of his term.

Next week, 23 incumbent Democrats are in real jeopardy compared to just four Republicans as new races are added to the list of toss-ups. A greater Republican majority in the House would mean the leader of the chamber, Speaker John Boehner, would be able to weather more defections from his party on legislation and still get bills



Former President Bill Clinton, left, smiles with U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., during a rally at which Clinton urged Coloradans to reelect Udall, as well as Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, and other Democratic candidates, in Lakewood, Colo. Clinton held his second rally in two days for embattled Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen Mark Udall.

(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

passed without having to court many Democratic lawmakers.

Since becoming Speaker in January 2011, Boehner has struggled to rein in many in the conservative tea party wing who forced a partial government shut-down last October. Many of the conservatives have rejected any attempt to

tackle comprehensive immigration legislation.

The once friendly terrain of New York, California, Obama's native state of Hawaii and adopted state of Illinois all now pose stiff challenges to Democrats who are determined to limit their House losses next Tuesday.

In a clear sign of Democratic woes, Vice President Joe Biden was heading to Massachusetts on Wednesday for a rally with Seth Moulton, who is trying to hold onto a Democratic seat against Republican Richard Tisei. Then Biden was traveling to California on Saturday to campaign in an open-seat contest east of Los Angeles

that surprisingly looks closer than a sure-fire Democratic gain.

In the closing days, the Democratic committee has invested \$1.1 million in an effort to protect six incumbents in Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, West Virginia and California.

"We're in trench warfare. I'm not going to sugarcoat it," Rep. Steve Israel, a New York Democrat and chairman of the committee, said in an interview. "It's a tough climate, it's getting tougher. It's the worst climate for Democrats since 2010, but it won't be 2010. We knew that this was coming and we prepared for it." □

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Government pushing air bag maker on replacement parts

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government's auto safety agency, responding to criticism of its slow response to safety issues, told the manufacturer of millions of potentially faulty air bags to make replacement parts faster and do more testing to find the cause of the problem.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sent letters Wednesday to Japanese air bag maker Takata Corp. and 10 automakers seeking information in a widening air bag recall that now covers almost 8 million U.S. vehicles. The vehicles are equipped with Takata air bags that can potentially inflate with too much force, blowing apart metal canisters and sending shards flying at drivers and passengers. Safety advocates say four people have died due to the problem.

Tests by Takata have shown that prolonged exposure to high humidity can cause the inflators to malfunction. Some automakers have limited their recalls to a small number of high-humidity areas, but lawmakers and others are demanding that recalls be expanded nationwide.

Takata, the world's second-largest air bag maker with 22 percent of the market, has been plagued by problems for the past 13 years.

For varying reasons, more than 12 million cars with its air bags have been recalled worldwide.

Honda has been hit hardest in the latest round of recalls with about 5 million cars called back. Other affected automakers include Nissan, Chrysler, Ford, Mazda, Subaru, Mitsubishi, Toyota, BMW and General Motors. Lawmakers say that 30 million cars with potentially faulty Takata air bags are driving on U.S. roads.

In the letter, NHTSA Deputy Administrator David Friedman told Takata that its inflators are "creating

an unacceptable risk of deaths and injuries by projecting metal fragments into vehicle occupants rather than properly inflating the attached air bag." The letters sent to automakers urge them to speed up owner notification and replacement part distribution. Friedman told Takata that those efforts won't work if it doesn't produce enough parts.

"Takata's production capacity is critically important," Friedman wrote.

The letter states that Takata has agreed to take "aggressive steps" to accelerate production, but Friedman demands that the company state its current production capacity and the ability to expand it and how long it would take. He also asks about the possibility of getting replacement parts from other inflator manufacturers, and how the company is tracking inventory and quality verification.

"Production of replacement parts must not just be expedited, it must be prioritized," Friedman wrote.

He also wrote that Takata has promised to double its testing program for inflators returned from recalled cars.

A message was left Wednesday seeking comment from Takata.

NHTSA also asked the automakers for test results on air bags that were sold outside high-humidity areas. Automakers have different boundaries for recall zones, which has confused consumers. NHTSA says the affected area includes Florida, Puerto Rico; limited areas near the Gulf of Mexico in Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana; as well as Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Hawaii.

Former Hyundai North American CEO John Krafick, who now heads the TrueCar.com auto pricing site, said a nationwide recall is the only way to solve the problem. □

FBI impersonate repairmen in sting

ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dramatic new video obtained by The Associated Press, filmed through the lapel camera carried by an undercover government agent, shows how the FBI tricked its way inside a luxury villa at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas as part of a major international gambling bust.

utes of audio and video recordings of the covert reconnaissance recorded over two days.

On another visit to a villa on July 5, Lopez appeared to try to fix an Internet outage for several minutes while glancing around the room and asking more than once to view a laptop screen to verify that Internet connectivity was still down. Defense lawyers said in their

ranking member of the 14k Triad, a Chinese organized crime group. Goldstein said Phua denied that allegation, which he said had nothing to do with the criminal case in Nevada.

Phua, his son Darren Wai Kit Phua, Seng Chen Yong, Wai Kin Yong and four others were arrested in July after federal agents raided three high-roller villas at the hotel. All eight face



Paul Phua, second from left, and his son Darren, third from left, walk to Lloyd George Federal Courthouse in Las Vegas with their attorney Richard Schonfeld for their arraignment. Phua was arrested in July for his role in a multimillion-dollar World Cup betting scheme.

(AP Photo/Erik Verduzco)

Defense lawyers said the FBI shut off Internet access to the suspects then impersonated repair technicians to get inside and collect evidence.

The video shows investigators devising code words to use while they were inside, a back-and-forth about the cover story for an agent, who adopted the name "Sam," which he had used "for other stuff" in the past, and a brief exchange about how another investigator should dress for the role of a technical repair nerd.

"If you put on that shirt, you have to look the part. Go all the way," said Mike Wood, an outside technician working for Caesars, advising Nevada Gaming Control Board Agent Ricardo Lopez before Lopez headed to one of the suites the morning of July 4. The AP obtained about 30 min-

utes of audio and video recordings of the covert reconnaissance recorded over two days.

Still undercover, Lopez appeared to call Wood from inside the villa and asked him to "check the frame," the code they had previously worked out. In a brief back and forth, Wood responded that he would "trace the wire and make sure it's tied down good."

Defense lawyer Thomas Goldstein, who is challenging evidence the government collected in what he described as an illegal search, said that was code to turn Internet access back on. After the agents left the villa, Lopez was recorded saying he saw the Internet address of the website that defendant Wei Seng Phua was operating, adding, "Phua had the odds up on his page the whole time." Federal authorities described Phua, 50, as a high-

charges of transmission of wagering information, operating an illegal gambling business, and aiding and abetting. None of defendants has entered a plea, but Goldstein said they all deny wrongdoing.

Phua also faces charges of running an illegal sports gambling business in Macau. He was arrested in the Chinese gambling enclave on June 18 and flew to Las Vegas a few days later.

The FBI employed the ruse against the recommendation of an assistant U.S. attorney, Kimberly Frayn, according to defense lawyers. They filed a 54-page motion late Tuesday night in federal court in Las Vegas to dismiss evidence in the case. According to a conversation recorded by an investigator for the hotel, the prosecutor told FBI agents "it was a consent issue," the lawyers said. □

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American Living:

Ex-Distance Star Bob Kennedy Is Taking It Slower

JERÉ LONGMAN

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INDIANAPOLIS - When Bob Kennedy entered his first and only marathon, in New York in 2004, his ambition matched his biography as one of America's greatest distance runners: a two-time Olympian on the track, the first non-African to run 5,000 meters in under 13 minutes.

For the first half of the marathon, Kennedy kept on pace for his goal of two hours and 10 minutes. Then he began to slow. He had overtrained or not recovered sufficiently. With about 8 miles remaining, he dropped out rather than slog to the finish.

It would be Kennedy's last professional race. Two months later, he became a father of twins. He immersed himself in his business of specialty running stores. By his account, he did not run another step for five years. He began to put on weight. He competed at 142 pounds, but in retirement he pushed the scale to 200.

A decade later, at 44, his hair salted with gray, Kennedy has again entered the New York City Marathon with a different perspective and a twist on the usual career trajectory. He is not an amateur who dreams of becoming an elite professional, but a once-elite professional who has finally learned to become an amateur.

His projected time - 3:20 to 3:30 - would probably place Kennedy among the top 5,000 finishers in Sunday's field of about 50,000. But his motivation would be familiar to a first-timer in the

back of the pack - drop a few pounds, stay healthy for his children, reconfigure his life after a recent divorce, run for fun, gain a sense of accomplishment without a need for victory or personal records.

"This is, for me, finding my-

"I think I've found a balance," Kennedy said. "I've found I can do things in my life for reasons beyond just being successful."

Upon retirement, Kennedy had little interest in taking a two-hour run for the sake of it. After five years of in-

fessional self had to wear away, like the sole of a running shoe, before his amateur self could be restored. His only race since the 2004 New York City Marathon came in 2011 at the Hood to Coast Relay, an overnight 200-mile relay race

in his legs, the fatigue, felt familiar and good. There were still 9 more miles to complete a marathon, but he felt he would get there. Then he had a setback.

A week later, Kennedy set out to run 19 miles alone without any liquids or nutrition, thinking, "Yeah, I know what I'm doing; I used to be a good runner." At 13 miles, he hit the wall and shuffled home. His muscles were sore for days.

"I'm so glad it happened," Kennedy said. "It was an eye-opener that you've got to take this stuff seriously."

Two and a half weeks ago, he set up a loop course with bottles of sports drink in his front yard. He ran progressively faster with each lap and covered 20 miles at a 7:40 pace, finishing in the low 7:30s. Last week, he ran 14 miles at a 7:40 pace, feeling under control.

If he can restrain himself for the first 18 miles Sunday, fighting his natural tendency to speed up, Kennedy said he could run under 3:30. Sometimes during training, he has found himself with a smile on his face. He says he has found a joyful enthusiasm as an amateur that waned as a professional. He has begun to feel a connection with the weekend warriors who come into his stores to buy a pair of shoes and have their own aspirations and sense of accomplishment.

"When you see people cross a half-marathon finish line in two hours, 45 minutes with tears in their eyes, you kind of get it," Kennedy said. "When I was 25, I didn't get it. I really didn't. I get it now."



Bob Kennedy trains for the New York City Marathon in Indianapolis, Oct. 22, 2014. At 44, Kennedy, a former two-time Olympian on the track, has again entered the New York City Marathon, but with a different perspective and a twist on the usual career trajectory.

(A.J. Mast/The New York Times)

self again through running," Kennedy said in an interview last week.

In his prime, Kennedy held American records at 3,000 meters (7:30.84), 2 miles (8:11.59) and 5,000 meters (12:58.21). Running was a consuming emotional investment. He was intensely competitive, training twice a day, nearly every day, running up to 130 miles a week. He found it to be a life of necessary selfishness, everything focused on his career, which brought great achievement but came with a price.

activity, he began running again for a half-hour at a time, but only intermittently, starting for two or three weeks, then stopping for eight or 10.

"I think back on why I didn't run for so long," Kennedy said. "I didn't want to have to deal with running slower. I didn't want to have to deal with people saying, 'Are you going to run this race? How fast are you running?' Now I'm OK. If I went out and ran nine-minute miles, I don't have to prove myself to anybody. I'm 44." In effect, Kennedy's pro-

consisting of 12-person teams in Oregon.

"He showed up probably 40 pounds overweight, but he was still laying down some 5:20 miles in the middle of the night through Oregon," said Bryan Chandler, a friend and running partner. "I knew there was still something fabulous in there. So I stayed on him." Still, for several years, Kennedy brushed aside Chandler's pleas to discover the joy of being an amateur runner.

In September, Kennedy ran 17 miles in 2:04. The burn

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US Financial Front:

Fed ends bond buying and cites brighter job market

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve cited an improving economy Wednesday as it ended its landmark bond-buying program and pointed to gains in the job market — a key condition for an eventual interest rate hike.

The Fed did reiterate its plan to maintain its benchmark short-term rate near zero "for a considerable time." Most economists predict it won't raise that rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, before mid-2015.

But in a statement ending a policy meeting Wednesday, the Fed noted that the job market is strengthening. Its statement drops a previous reference to "significant" in referring to an "underutilization" of available workers.

Instead, the Fed said the excess of would-be job holders is "gradually diminishing." It also noted solid hiring gains and a lower unemployment rate, now 5.9 percent. One of the Fed's major goals is to achieve maximum employment, which it defines as an unemployment rate between 5.2 percent and 5.5 percent.

That all suggested that the Fed is looking toward an eventual rate hike.

Investors responded to confirmation that the Fed would end its bond buying program and perhaps move closer to a rate increase by positioning themselves for higher rates. The dollar rose against other currencies, bond yields ticked up, the price of gold fell and stock prices slipped. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down a modest 31

points, or 0.2 percent.

The Fed repeated previous language that the likelihood of inflation running persistently below its 2 percent target has diminished, even though inflation is being slowed by lower energy prices and other factors. The Fed noted that expect-

David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors, said he was struck by the absence in the statement of any mention of global economic weakness, including the threat of another European recession.

Conservative critics of the bond buying program

"This isn't the Fed rushing to the exits," he said.

Hanson noted that while the Fed kept its "considerable time" phrasing, it added language stressing that any rate increase would hinge on the economy's health. Previously, many analysts had interpreted

reached the central bank's 2 percent target. And he argued that the Fed should have continued its bond purchases at the current pace.

Kocherlakota is considered one of the Fed's "doves" — officials who are more concerned about unemployment than are "hawks," who worry more about the risk of high inflation. At the September meeting, two "hawks" — Presidents Charles Plosser of the Philadelphia Fed and Richard Fisher of the Dallas Fed — had dissented. On Wednesday, they voted for the statement.

The U.S. economy has been benefiting from solid consumer and business spending, manufacturing growth and a surge in hiring that's reduced the unemployment rate to a six-year low. Still, the housing industry is still struggling, and global weakness poses a potential threat to U.S. growth.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen has stressed that while the unemployment rate is close to a historically normal level, other gauges of the job market remain a concern. These include stagnant pay; many part-time workers who can't find full-time jobs; and a historically high number of people who have given up looking for a job and are no longer counted as unemployed.

The Fed's decision to end its third round of bond buying had been expected. It has gradually pared the purchases from \$85 billion in Treasury and mortgage bonds each month to \$15 billion. And the Fed had said it would likely end the program after its October meeting if the economy continued to improve.



Specialist Michael O'Mara works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, as a television screen shows the decision of the Federal Reserve, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014. The Fed plans to keep a key interest rate at a record low to support a U.S. job market that's improving but still isn't fully healthy and help lift inflation from unusually low levels. As expected, it's also ending a bond purchase program that was intended to keep long-term rates low.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

tations for inflation have remained stable, something it strives to achieve.

On balance, economists saw the Fed's statement as showing less concern about unusually low inflation, which has helped delay a rate increase. Some analysts said the market reaction Wednesday suggested that investors saw the Fed statement as at least setting the stage for rate hikes starting sometime next year.

hailed the move to end the purchases, a step they saw as long overdue.

The bond buying "has overstayed its welcome by years and by trillions" of dollars, House Financial Services Chairman Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, said in a statement.

Michael Hanson, senior economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, said the Fed still appears likely to put off any rate increase until at least mid-2015.

the "considerable time" phrase to mean the Fed wouldn't raise rates for a specific period after it ended its bond purchases.

The Fed's statement was approved 9-1. The one dissent came from Narayana Kocherlakota, president of the Fed's regional bank in Minneapolis. He contended that the Fed should have signaled its intention to maintain a record-low benchmark rate until the inflation outlook has

Passing on the Passport:

Some eligible immigrants say no to US citizenship

LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — More than an estimated 8.5 million immigrants living in the U.S. were eligible for citizenship in 2012. Yet fewer than 800,000 took the leap, according to the latest Department of Homeland Security numbers.

If statistics hold, nearly 60 percent of the remainder eventually will — a percentage that has been slowly rising.

Still, there are many hold-outs. Immigrants give a variety of explanations as to why, most commonly:

— The cost of the process that most of the time takes seven years. It usually costs \$680, though fee waivers are available for some, and the cost is often multiplied by several family members;

— A lack of English. Immigrants must demonstrate basic knowledge of U.S. history and government and pass an English proficiency language exam, unless they are over 50, and then certain waivers may apply.

— The potential loss of benefits from their native land, such as the ability to freely travel and work across Europe.

Still others say they simply don't see the need. Here, some legal permanent residents explain their reticence in their own words to The Associated Press.

THE EUROPEAN PASSPORT

"I guess it's an emotional thing," said Lena Dyring, as to why she hasn't sought to become a U.S. citizen. "I'd have to renounce my Norwegian citizenship. It's not that I don't like the U.S. I love it here. It would be almost to renounce my family, my background."

Dyring came to the U.S. in 2005 with her husband, a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Colombia. The two met at a bar in Norway. She still isn't used to some American customs: the hello hug — or in Miami, the hello kiss — and the "how are you?" greeting.

In Norway, people don't ask that question until half-way into the conversation when they really want to hear an answer, she says.

But her decision to opt out is more than an emotional one. The Norwegian Seafarer's labor union representative acknowledges the practical benefits.

"If I wanted to live or work in Europe one day, I could do that without much difficulty. And my children can have Norwegian citizenship through me."

Although in Norway, individuals must give up their citizenship to become Americans, other European countries allow people to retain dual citizenship.

Dyring says she'd like to be able to vote, not so much for president but on local issues. Still, she isn't convinced becoming a citizen offers her that much. The blonde 39-year-old mother of two fears neither racial profiling nor deportation. And since health care is cheaper in Norway, she wants to keep all options.



Lena Dyring, a representative for the Norwegian Seafarer's labor union, poses for a photo at PortMiami in Miami. Dyring, who came to the U.S. in 2005 with her husband, a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Colombia, has no plans of becoming an American citizen.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

NEVER FELT QUITE WELCOME

"I thought that American girl was extremely interesting," Luis Sanz says of falling for his future wife while



Luis Sanz, Creative Director Multimedia & Creative Design Services Office of Strategic Communications, at the University of California, Riverside poses for a picture with a snapshot of his family in Riverside, Calif. "When I came to the US, I didn't speak any English," Sanz said. "And with all the process with my papers, I felt very mistreated, and I felt like a secondhand person."

(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

she studied Spanish in his native Madrid. When she returned home, he decided to visit, never imagining he would stay. More than a decade later in the U.S., the couple has three chil-

process with my papers, I felt very mistreated, and I felt like a secondhand person. It really bothered me, so at the beginning I thought: 'I'll just stay here, but I don't know how long.'"

They did move briefly to Spain, "but I'd become too used to the United States, to the freedom," he says.

"I truly love this country. We know we are not moving back," Sanz says, adding that he has yet to take the oath of allegiance for a combination of reasons. "I get a little lazy, but I still keep a little bit of that pain — and I feel it every day because of my accent — and if people meet me, they still view me as a second-hand citizen. It makes me feel bad, and that I don't want to completely commit."

PLANNED TO GO BACK

Maria Jimenez has been a U.S. resident for decades and counsels other immigrant women on becoming politically empowered. But she rarely talks about her own immigration status.

"I'm too ashamed to tell friends I've been here so long and haven't done it,"

she says of becoming a citizen.

Jimenez came to the U.S. from the Jalisco, Mexico, town of San Juan de los Lagos in 1986, to help her brother and his wife care for their newborn. That year Congress passed a massive immigration bill, which allowed millions of those in the country illegally to get their green cards. Jimenez was among those.

"We always thought we would go home. We never thought we were going to stay. But the time kept passing," she says. "We tried to go back several times but couldn't find work. And our families depended on us for the money." Besides, her three U.S.-born children didn't feel at home in Mexico.

She keeps telling herself one of these days she will take the plunge because she wants to have a say in the laws that affect her.

"But my own son who is fluent in English and was born here says he wouldn't be able to answer a lot of the (citizenship test) questions, so I think 'how can I?'" she says. "I've heard of people who think they speak English well and are humiliated." □

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Peshmerga troops cheered by fellow Kurds in Turkey

ELENA BECATOROS

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

SURUC, Turkey (AP) — Iraqi peshmerga troops were cheered Wednesday by fellow Kurds in southeastern Turkey as the fighters slowly made their way toward the Syrian Kurdish border town of Kobani to try to break a siege there by Islamic State militants.

But the ability of the small force to turn the tide of battle will depend on the effectiveness of their weapons and on continued U.S.-led airstrikes against the extremists.

"We are waiting for the peshmerga. We want to see what weapons they have," said 30-year-old Nidal Attur, who arrived in Suruc two weeks ago from a small village near Kobani. He and other euphoric Kurds waited for hours along streets in Suruc to catch a glimpse of the peshmerga troops they consider to be heroes. Most were seeing them for the first time.

After a rousing send-off from thousands of cheering supporters a day earlier in the Iraqi Kurdish capital of Irbil, the peshmerga forces landed early Wednesday at the Sanliurfa airport in southeastern Turkey.

They left the airport in buses escorted by Turkish security forces and were expected to travel to Kobani later Wednesday. Others traveled to Turkey in trucks and vehicles loaded with cannons and heavy machine guns. They crossed into Turkey through the Habur border gate before daybreak Wednesday and were driving about 400 kilometers

(about 250 miles) to Suruc. The peshmerga troops — about 150 in all — were expected to join up along the

road to the Mursitpinar border crossing, where they were to enter Kobani. Separately, a small group of Syrian rebels entered Kobani from Turkey on Wednesday in a push to help Kurdish fighters there against the militants, activists and Kurdish officials said.



People cheer a group of Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga troops as they arrive in Mardin, southeastern Turkey, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014. The peshmergas are on their way to Syria to help Syrian Kurds fighting Islamic State group militants in the embattled border town of Kobani or Ayn al-Arab.

(AP Photo)

known as the People's Protection Units or YPG, have been struggling to defend Kobani against the Islamic State group since mid-September, despite dozens of coalition airstrikes against the extremists.

It is not clear what impact this small but battle-hardened combined force of FSA and peshmerga fighters — and their combined weaponry — will have in the battle for Kobani. Kurdish fighters are already sharing information with the coalition to coordinate strikes against IS militants there, but the new force

may help improve efforts and offer additional battle-field support. Nawaf Khalil, Europe-based

spokesman for Syria's leading Kurdish Democratic Union Party, said the peshmerga force was "symbolic in number" but their weapons will play a positive role in Kobani.

Syrian Kurds have begged the international community for heavy weapons — like the ones delivered by the U.S. and its allies to Iraq's Kurds — to bolster the outgunned defenders of Kobani. Earlier this month, the U.S. dropped weapons, ammunition and other supplies for the first time following concern that Kobani was about to

fall. That, along with daily U.S. airstrikes and a fierce determination by the Kurdish fighters, has stalled the IS advance. "Kurds will remember this moment in history. They will speak of 'before and after Kobani' from now on," Khalil said of the peshmerga force's participation.

Emotions were high among residents of Suruc, a predominantly Kurdish border town, as people waited for the peshmerga in a square and along a main street, where police patrolled with loudspeakers.

"We are expecting them to go there and throw out IS from Kobani so we can go back to our homes," said Ahmed Boza, 68, from Kobani.

Another Kobani resident, 57-year-old Mohammed Osman, said: "We are waiting for the peshmerga because we (Kurds) are all brothers. We are all part of one whole. If one side hurts, we are all in pain."

The Islamic State group's offensive on Kobani and nearby Syrian villages has killed more than 800 people, activists say. The Sunni extremists captured dozens of Kurdish villages and control parts of Kobani. More than 200,000 people have fled into Turkey.

The coalition has carried out dozens of airstrikes against the militants in and around Kobani, helping stall their advance. The U.S. Central Command said eight airstrikes struck near Kobani on Tuesday and Wednesday. The fighting in Kobani has deadlocked recently, with neither side getting the upper hand. □

Ebola spread may be slowing in Liberia, WHO says

RICK GLADSTONE

© 2014 New York Times

The World Health Organization said Wednesday that the spread of Ebola may be slowing in Liberia, one of the three West African countries most ravaged by the deadly virus.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, the organization's assistant director general, in a dial-in news conference from its Geneva offices, said that there had been a drop in the number of burials in Liberia and no increases in

laboratory-confirmed cases.

While Aylward cautioned that it was premature to draw conclusions, and that Ebola cases could rise in Liberia again, he appeared to be optimistic that the global effort to combat the outbreak was making headway.

"Do we feel confident that the response is now getting an upper hand on the virus?" he told reporters. "Yes, we are seeing slowing rate of new cases, very definitely" in Liberia.

He said the organization's latest figures, to be published later on its website, are 13,703 cases in total, with at least 5,000 deaths. Nearly all are in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Aylward's assertions on Liberia came amid a conspicuously low number of patients and many empty beds at Ebola treatment centers established in the country to handle the caseload.

Health officials say they have been confounded by these developments.

Aylward said the apparent improvement in Liberia might be partly attributable to an aggressive effort to establish safe burial practices for victims, who are most contagious at death. He also credited the government with educating people about the risks of contagion. But he also offered serious caveats.

"I am terrified that the information will be misinterpreted and people will start to think, 'Oh great, this is under control,'?" he said. "That's like saying your pet

tiger is under control. This is a very, very dangerous disease."

Just a few carelessly handled burials, Aylward said, could "start a whole new transmission chain and the disease starts trending upward again."

The Ebola virus, which has no confirmed cure, began to spread in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone in March. It is now considered one of the worst global health emergencies in modern times.

Russia defends rebel election in eastern Ukraine

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia on Wednesday angrily dismissed the EU's warning that it wouldn't recognize local elections organized by pro-Russia insurgents in eastern Ukraine, saying that the rejection of the vote could derail a fragile cease-fire deal.

Moscow has pledged to recognize the vote set for this Sunday, but Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has warned that the elections would violate a cease-fire agreement reached in Minsk last month.

The EU also warned Wednesday that it wouldn't recognize the vote, which "would run counter to the letter and the spirit of the



Ukrainians read newspapers on a metro train, in Kiev, Ukraine. With more than one-third of the votes counted, two allied pro-European parties in Ukraine that ran on a platform to enact tough reforms, took a joint lead in the parliamentary elections.

(AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

Minsk Protocol and disrupt progress towards finding a sustainable political solution in this framework."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the rebel vote would be in breach of the constitution and national law.

"These 'elections' will seriously undermine the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum, which need to be urgently implemented in full," he said in a statement.

The Russian Foreign Ministry responded quickly by saying that the original Minsk agreement foresaw local elections in the rebel-held territories between Oct. 19 and Nov. 3. It said that Poroshenko later set elections in the rebel-controlled areas for Dec. 7 without even consulting with them.

Hong Kong:

Politician demanding leader's resignation penalized

MICHAEL FORSYTHE

ALAN WONG

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HONG KONG - China's top advisory body expelled a Hong Kong delegate Wednesday for giving the wrong kind of advice: that the top official in the city should resign because of the poor way he has handled student-led protests. James Tien was removed from the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the official China News Service reported. The

largely powerless but prestigious organ of the Chinese government moved quickly to remove Tien, one of more than 2,000 delegates, after he said Friday in a radio interview that Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying should resign.

In remarks to reporters in Hong Kong after the vote by the body's standing committee, Tien said that he accepted the decision and that he was resigning his post as leader of the city's pro-business Liberal

Party.

"The fact that I called, or rather urged, Chief Executive C.Y. Leung to resign because Hong Kong was getting a bit ungovernable" went against the rules and was "incorrect," he said.

Yu Zhengsheng, the head of the conference, said it was acceptable for members of the body to offer criticism, but that it had to be constructive - a category that does not include calling for the chief executive of Hong Kong to resign

- the pro-Beijing Ta Kung Pao newspaper in Hong Kong reported.

On Wednesday, Tien reiterated his call for Leung to resign and said that when he first made the suggestion he was not thinking of his role as a delegate to the conference, but rather of his role as a Hong Kong lawmaker and leader of his party.

Tien, 67, is the first prominent member of the pro-Beijing establishment in Hong Kong to call for

Leung's resignation. The former British colony, which has its own political system separate from the mainland's, has been the scene of citywide protests that are now in their second month. The protests were prompted by a decision by China's parliament setting out stringent rules for Hong Kong elections for chief executive in 2017, which the demonstrators say guarantee that only candidates loyal to Beijing can appear on the ballot.



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Mexico officials comb gully for missing 43 students

MARK STEVENSON

JACOBO G. GARCIA

Associated Press

COCULA, Mexico (AP)

— Forensic experts are combing a gully in southern Mexico for the remains of 43 missing students, as frustration mounts among relatives of both the disappeared and the detained over the lack of answers more than a month into the investigation.

Workers in protective gear focused on a 25-by-25 foot-square area below the ridge of the municipal dump in Cocula, a town in Guerrero state where police have been arrested and linked to the Sept. 26 disappearances. But authorities have not said so far how many bodies have been found or in what condition.

Parents of the students say they were not even notified of the latest remains, discovered Monday based on the testimony of four new detainees in the case. "We're angry and very tired," said Mario Cesar Gonzalez, father of missing Cesar Manuel Gonzalez. "We have an overwhelming sense of helplessness." Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam said he has nothing concrete so far regarding the remains.

"I prefer taking more time to find the truth than rushing to put out a guess, imagination or invention," he said in a press conference Tuesday.

A parent who spoke on condition of anonymity said the group would meet in Mexico City on Wednesday with President Enrique Pena Nieto.

Murillo Karam said Monday that two of the detained suspects were members of the Guerreros Unidos cartel who handled the disap-



A forensic examiner walks along a garbage-strewn hillside above a ravine where examiners are searching for human remains in densely forested mountains outside Cocula, Guerrero state, Mexico. Suspects arrested this week told prosecutors that many of the 43 students who disappeared Sept. 26 from the town of Iguala had been held near this location.

(AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

pearances of the students. The two said they received a large group of people around Sept. 26, the date the students went missing. The arrests Monday put the total at 56 detainees so far in the case, yet there is still nothing concrete on the

whereabouts of the students.

Journalists taken to the latest search site by authorities saw clothing but nothing resembling remains. It appeared that some debris on the hillside had fallen from the dump above.

Workers were not digging, rather working the surface for clues.

The rural teachers college students disappeared after an attack by police in nearby Iguala. Authorities say it was ordered by former Mayor Jose Luis Abar-

ca and carried out by police working with the Guerreros Unidos cartel.

Parents of the missing students and their allies are staging increasingly angry protests in the state capital, Chilpancingo, blocking roads and taking public buildings.

"We aren't going to stop", said Manuel Martinez, a spokesman for the families. Relatives of suspects arrested in raids in the area last week are angry as well, hanging a large banner Tuesday from the gates of the Cocula church accusing President Enrique Pena Nieto and the federal government of "a wave of arbitrary detentions of innocent citizens."

"Authorities are desperate over how incompetent they appear in solving the case," said Pedro Mujica. "So they have to justify themselves by arresting innocent people."

Mujica's cousin, Gustavo Moreno Arroyo, was detained along with several other men in Iguala on Oct. 21, and accused of drug trafficking and weapons possession. □

Venezuela's government recalls ambassador to Spain

JORGE RUEDA

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's socialist government recalled for consultations its ambassador to Spain earlier this week to protest Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's call to free a jailed opposition activist who led anti-government protests earlier this year. Rajoy met with the wife of jailed hardliner Leopoldo Lopez last week in Madrid and posted on Twitter a short message urging his release.

Although that's something the United States, the United Nations and other foreign governments have demanded previously, it was enough to trigger an angry rebuke from President Nicolas Maduro, who blasted the conservative leader for "interfering" in Venezuela's affairs.

"He thinks he's the king, the owner of the Americas," Maduro said last week, accusing Rajoy of trying to distract attention from Spain's economic problems. "Go talk about the

disaster you're creating for the Spanish people."

Opposition leaders however say it's Maduro that is looking for a scapegoat, as Venezuelans grow frustrated with long lines for food and other basic goods, the result of an economic crisis in the oil-rich nation marked by soaring 60 percent inflation and a drought of dollars. Lopez has been jailed since February for leading protests that rocked Venezuela in February seeking to force Maduro's resignation just a few months after his

party prevailed in municipal elections. He is charged with inciting violence.

It's not the first time Venezuela's socialist government has picked a fight with the former colonial power. Former Spanish King Juan Carlos famously told the late Hugo Chavez to "shut up" at a regional summit in Chile in 2007. Venezuela threatened to cut commercial and diplomatic ties at the time but the dispute was smoothed over by Spain's then-socialist government. □

Cuba tries to drive up fertility amid baby slump

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press
HAVANA (AP) — Daymarys Gonzalez's first attempt to have a child ended with an ectopic pregnancy at age 31. She stopped trying to conceive after a miscarriage the following year. Now, the 37-year-old pet-bird breeder is unexpectedly pregnant again, and Cuba's communist gov-

ernment is doing all it can to make sure she has a successful delivery. Three months before her due date, she's living fulltime at a special government medical care center for women with high-risk pregnancies as part of a broad campaign to drive up a birth rate that has fallen to the lowest in Latin America. Years of fewer births mean the number of working-age people in Cuba is expected to shrink starting next year, terrible news for an island attempting to jumpstart its stagnant centrally planned economy. The country's governing Council of Ministers announced this week that it will soon unveil yet-unspec-

ified financial incentives for couples considering starting families. It had already expanded maternity, and in some cases paternity leave, to a full year with pay. The government also has opened dozens of special centers for infertile couples and special maternity units. At one of the centers in central Havana, Gonzalez

can go for \$10. With less time at home, little space or privacy and salaries that don't cover basic baby supplies, many couples are putting plans for children on hold, or having only one. "You wait to have economic stability to bring a child into the world," said Maria Isabel de Armas, a childless 31-year-old unem-

ployed waitress. Cuba has long prided itself on care of pregnant women and newborns, and officials often boast of an infant mortality rate lower than that of the United States. Now it's going further, opening special centers for infertile couples in each of the country's 168 municipalities. The government says it treated 3,000 couples for infertility in 2010, and more than doubled that number in the following three years. The country has also tripled the number of special reproductive technology centers, to three, and there have been 500 births by artificial insemination. □

cal care, which includes contraception and free, legal abortion. It's also a product of its failures: a lackluster economy, persistently high levels of emigration by young people and an island-wide housing shortage. "People in Cuba wait because they don't have the economic or housing situation they need and they

can go for \$10. With less time at home, little space or privacy and salaries that don't cover basic baby supplies, many couples are putting plans for children on hold, or having only one. "You wait to have economic stability to bring a child into the world," said Maria Isabel de Armas, a childless 31-year-old unem-



In this Oct. 27, 2014 photo, a pregnant woman is helped by another as she suffers from labor pains, while walking in front of a painting of Fidel Castro at a special maternity unit for high-risk pregnancies in Havana, Cuba.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

ernment is doing all it can to make sure she has a successful delivery. Three months before her due date, she's living fulltime at a special government medical care center for women with high-risk pregnancies as part of a broad campaign to drive up a birth rate that has fallen to the lowest in Latin America. Years of fewer births mean the number of working-age people in Cuba is expected to shrink starting next year, terrible news for an island attempting to jumpstart its stagnant centrally planned economy. The country's governing Council of Ministers announced this week that it will soon unveil yet-unspec-

and 50 other expectant mothers chat and watch television as nurses check their blood pressure and happy babies smile down from posters on the wall. "We've been evaluating this low birth rate for years," said Roberto Alvarez Fumero, chief of the maternity and child health unit at Cuba's Ministry of Health. "Now we're taking action to improve sexual and reproductive health, which can help drive up the country's birth rate." Cuba's baby problem is a result of some of the most notable successes of its 55-year-old socialist revolution: more working women with professional jobs and universal access to medi-

know that life gets tougher with a baby," Gonzalez said. "I'm definitely only going to have one child." Analysts estimate that Cuba has a deficit of 500,000 homes, a number growing because of the cash-poor state's difficulties in maintaining publicly owned buildings. So many young people share homes with uncles, parents, grandparents and cousins. They also earn less than \$50 a month. Despite many free or highly subsidized services like food, education, health, telephone and electricity, many Cubans depend on higher-quality imported products that can only be had at high prices. A pack of diapers

ployed waitress. Cuba has long prided itself on care of pregnant women and newborns, and officials often boast of an infant mortality rate lower than that of the United States. Now it's going further, opening special centers for infertile couples in each of the country's 168 municipalities. The government says it treated 3,000 couples for infertility in 2010, and more than doubled that number in the following three years. The country has also tripled the number of special reproductive technology centers, to three, and there have been 500 births by artificial insemination. □

CARIBBEAN News Briefs

USVI senator's past yields big ballot disputes

ST. THOMAS, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — A dispute over whether a legislator convicted of tax evasion can run for re-election in the U.S. Virgin Islands has disrupted early voting in the territory. The election supervisor has called off early voting on the island of St. Croix after the Virgin Islands Supreme Court ordered Sen. Alicia "Chucky" Hansen's name removed from the ballot. The court ruled the 10-term senator was ineligible to run because of her 2009 conviction of three misdemeanor counts for failing to file tax returns. Gov. John de Jongh pardoned her in September in an attempt to end the long-running dispute over her eligibility. But the island's Supreme Court ruled otherwise. Hansen attorney Lee Rohn said Tuesday she will ask federal courts to intervene before full balloting on Nov. 4.

Puerto Rico cop charged on first degree murder

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A police officer in Puerto Rico has been charged with first-degree murder and weapons violations in a killing that authorities say was sparked by a traffic-related confrontation. Police said Tuesday that Officer Yael Huertas Perez is accused of shooting Carlos Sandoval de Jesus in June after the policeman finished his shift. Huertas' attorneys have said that the officer fired in self-defense after Sandoval's car hit his in a minor collision. Police accuse 28-year-old Huertas of shooting Sandoval and in turn causing Sandoval's car to crash. Huertas has been released on \$40,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 7. The charges come as Puerto Rico's police department undergoes a 10-year federally mandated reform after a 2011 federal report accused officers of illegal killings, corruption and civil rights violations. □



At Banjolux: International Supplier Exhibition Draws Large, Professional Crowd



ORANJESTAD - Following last year's success, the 2nd Annual International Supplier Exhibition 2014, at the showroom of Banjolux on Schotlandstraat, in Eagle, brought together a solid representation of the island's top contractors, architects, civil engineers, and resort chief engineers, who mingled with visiting specialists representing the world's top tile makers and bathroom design firms. The visitors introduced new products and current innovations by successful global brands such as Villeroy & Boch, Keuco, Geberit, Ceramica Saint'Agostino, and Florim, showcasing creativity and fresh ideas to the Aruba market. Two of the visitors Constantin Von Boch, Vice President of Sales & Marketing Bath & Wellness Division, Villeroy & Boch and David Krakoff, President Americas Sales Division of TOTO USA, reported that their two world class companies partnered in recent

years to produce the ultimate bathroom together, a zen zone, offering comfort and escape, with improved functionality and upgraded design. The two companies, motivated by the desire to improve everyone's quality of life, are both dedicated to global conservation and share a responsible environmental vision. Over cocktails and butler passed hors d'oeuvres, the new TOTO toilets with washlets became the talk of the town, featuring advance hygienic air dryers, air purifiers, automatic flushing with remote control, and a lid patented with softclose, designed to lower the seat to the bowl gently and quietly. Suppliers from the USA, Germany & Italy mingled

with the local professionals, educating them on new technologies and presenting them with infinite possibilities for local commercial and residential projects, in a lively cocktail party ambiance. Pictured here the crew of Banjolux with their guests. Banjolux, Aruba's leading bathroom and tile specialist has been in business on Aruba since 1997. The company encourages businesses and individuals to discover their own unique taste in its showroom. Banjolux members of management were proud to host such an inspiring event and couldn't have anticipated a better turnout, as both suppliers and attending island professionals are already looking forward to next year's event. □

Kiwanis Club of Aruba Installs New Officers For 2014-2015



PALM BEACH - Recently, Mrs. Marjorie Clark was installed as president of the Kiwanis Club of Aruba during the club's ceremony at Aruba Marriott Resort by Lt. Governor Mr. Gavril Mansur representing the Kiwanis Club of Palm Beach, Aruba. Also installed were Vice Presidents Ryan Kock (1st) and Fernando

Rigaud(2nd), Treasurer Gi-antonio Muller, and Secretary Norma Brinkenber-Spellen. In addition, the following members will serve on the club's board of directors: Aurora Dijkhoff, John Every, Oslin Ismail, Tessely Koolman-Ranis, Kevin van Ommeren, Shurby Ranis, Edbert Schwengle.

The immediate past president is George Croes. He will continue to serve the club board for the current Kiwanistic year. The evening was witnessed by The Governor of Aruba, Mr. Fredis Refunjol and his distinguished spouse, The President of the Parliament of Aruba, Mrs. Mari-sol Lopez-Tromp and her distinguished husband, The Governor of Eastern Canada & The Caribbean, Mr. Serge Viau, The Governor of Eastern Canada & The Caribbean, Mr. Alla Ure and his distinguished spouse and the Presidents of the following Service Clubs in Aruba, viz: Kiwanis Club of Palm Beach, Kiwanis Club of Young Professionals, Kiwanis Key Club Colegio Arubano, Kiwanis Builders



Club of Mon Plasir College, Kiwanis Circle K University of Aruba, Kiwanis Circle K EPI, Kiwanis Aktion Club Sonrisa, Lions Club of Aruba, Quota International of Aruba, Womens Club of Aruba. The Kiwanis motto is "Serving the Children of the World" and is active in Aruba since 1965. For more info, please visit our website: www.kiwanisaruba.org or the Kiwanis International website: www.kiwanis.org

Recent club service activities have included such projects as: Kite Flying Event, the 18th Clint Whitfield Outstanding Student Award, Back To School project, and not to forget the annual Wine & Cheese fundraising project. Therefore, The Kiwanis Club of Aruba once again would like to thank the Aruban Community for their support over the last 50 years!!!

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It's Official: The Marriott Has the Best Show in Aruba!



- Hilarious American stand-up comedians perform in Ray Ellin's phenomenal show at the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino from now until November 17th.

PALM BEACH - The latest "Aruba Ray's Comedy Show" kicked off the other night at the Marriott Resort, and once again, it did not disappoint. In fact, it might have been the best one yet. Opening night was absolutely hilarious, and a very fun time was had by all. Every week top US comedians from the Letterman show, the Tonight Show, HBO and Comedy Central perform at the hotel. Produced and hosted by American comedian Ray Ellin, the current show has Ellin, Tony Woods, and Gary Keshner until November 3rd.

You do not want to miss Woods. He and Ellin were just fantastic, with Ellin showing off remarkable improvisational skills, and Woods sharing his outrageously funny world.

"Tony is probably one of the ten best comedians working today. And that includes Bill Cosby, Jerry Seinfeld, and Chris Rock," said Ellin, "He's just great, period."

Then, starting on November 4th, the show changes

and will feature the very recognizable Chuck Nice, Lenny Marcus (who made his third "Letterman" appearance last week), and Ellin.

The shows are at 830pm, every night, in the Amsterdam Ballroom in the Marriott Resort, down the hall from their casino. Doors open at 8pm.

(NOTE - there are NO shows on November 6th and 7th) It is suggested to arrive early - seating is first come first serve, and while you can make reservations, you pay for tickets at the Amsterdam Ballroom door.

The tickets are \$34. And each Comedy Ticket gives every audience member \$10 in FREE Slot Play in the Stellaris Casino at the Marriott (ID required!). And each Comedy Ticket will also provide a 20% discount to the Aruba La Vista buffet.

Plus, audience members can purchase an optional four hour premium open bar for only \$20! The premium open bar continues after the show in the casino until midnight. An incredible deal, and a full night out.

Reservations can be made at any concierge desk, or in the Marriott lobby. You can also call 520-6606 for reservations.

Additional info:



Tony Woods is one of the most popular comedians touring today. Tony is recognized by both his fans and his peers as one of the most engaging comedians in show business. He has toured all over the world, building a large following in the US, UK, Australia, and Europe. Tony has appeared on HBO, Comedy Central, Showtime, the Conan O'Brien show, NBC's Last Comic Standing, and the film The Brooklyn Project.

Also performing is Gary Keshner, who has been seen on NBC, and the movie "Last Night in Brooklyn." Gary performs at clubs and casinos all over the States.

Ray Ellin will be hosting the shows. Known as "Aruba Ray" because of his passion for Aruba, Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past three years, and produces and hosts these fantastic comedy shows on the island.

Ray has appeared on many television programs; he is the host of the new Gong Show Live, a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He also hosted the popular talk show Late Net, and hosted the television shows The Movie Loft, Brain Fuel, and New York Now. He also produced and directed the very successful film The



Latin Legends of Comedy, distributed by 20th Century Fox.

These three comedians perform regularly in New York City's biggest venues. The showroom is very comfortable, but seating is first come first serve! So you should try to arrive early enough.

Anyone can attend, however the show is suggested for a mature audience.

For more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino at (011) (297) 586-9000.

Seating is first come, first serve. Doors open at 8pm. The show starts at 830pm. The show ends around 10pm. The reservation phone number is 520-6606. There is NO drink minimum. ☐

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Scare if you dare at Bugaloe Beach Bar Halloween Horror Night!



PALM BEACH - Come on down for Halloween Horror Night at Bugaloe Beach Bar tonight! Join us on the scariest day of the year: Friday, October 31st! This Halloween party will scare your socks off, so come prepared. Creep your way

on to the Palm Pier between Radisson Aruba Resort and Riu Hotel and we'll welcome you with a Free Welcome Shot to get the party started. Tonight, on the last day of October from 8pm till closing time, Bugaloe will

transform in a haunted house, with some of the freakiest crew members you will ever see. To get you moving in that Michael Jackson "Thriller" way, DJ Medusa (aka Pacao) is in control of the beats. While a mystery guest

will join the stage later in the evening, you will be sipping on our special Halloween Cocktail. Halloween wouldn't be Halloween without the costumes! So do not forget to come dressed up in your scariest outfit.

Dress to Impress is the motto! Bugaloe, together with

the help of Hair salon Kapzones, De Palm Tours Aruba and Wholesaler Pepia Est. have some amazing prizes for the Best and Most Original Costumes! Dress to scare if you dare and join us on Halloween Tonight! For more information about tonight's party, please visit: www.bugaloe.com / www.facebook.com/bugaloe. □





San Francisco Giants' Madison Bumgarner and catcher Buster Posey celebrate after Game 7 of baseball's World Series against the Kansas City Royals Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo. The Giants won 3-2 to win the series.

(AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

Giants Win Third World Series in Five Years

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer
KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Madison Bumgarner pitched five innings of near-perfect relief as the San Francisco Giants held off the Kansas City Royals 3-2 Wednesday night in Game 7 of the World Series for their third championship in five seasons. With both starters chased early, this became a matchup of bullpens. And no one stood taller than the 6-foot-5 Bumgarner,

who added to his postseason legacy with a third victory this Series. After center fielder Gregor Blanco misplayed Alex Gordon's drive for a single and two-base error, Bumgarner got Salvador Perez to pop foul to third baseman Pablo Sandoval for the final out. The Giants ended a Series streak that had seen home teams win the last nine Game 7s. San Francisco also earned the titles in 2012 and 2010. Pitching on two days' rest

after his shutout in Game 5, Bumgarner entered in the fifth with a 3-2 lead. After giving up a leadoff single to Omar Infante, he shut down the Royals until Gordon's hit. Neither manager wanted to be caught waiting too long to make a move and Bruce Bochy pulled Tim Hudson in the second. Jeremy Affeldt relieved and threw 2 1-3 scoreless innings in his longest stint since 2012. Giants designated hitter Michael Morse drove in two

runs, including a go-ahead single in the fourth off Kelvin Herrera. A moment earlier, Royals manager Ned Yost had yanked starter Jeremy Guthrie. After a Series full of lopsided results, this quickly shaped as something much more tight and tense. Bochy spent a lot of time on the field. Along with pulling Hudson, Bochy became the first manager to win a video review challenge under Major League Baseball's expanded re-

play format. Eric Hosmer was initially ruled safe by first base umpire Eric Cooper while making a headfirst dive to beat out a double-play relay in the third. But after a review that took 2 minutes, 57 seconds, Hosmer was called out, completing a slick play started by rookie second baseman Joe Panik's dive and glove flip to shortstop Brandon Crawford. The crowd noise at Kauffman Stadium was constant and loud. □

LeBron set for Cavs season opener with closure

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — This will be a season opener unlike any other — one that also brings closure.

Part homecoming, part family reunion, part revival meeting and a huge party rolled into one.

When LeBron James takes the court on Thursday night wearing a No. 23 Cavaliers uniform in a regular-season game for the first time in four years, an entire city will be able to wash away a painful past. Any lingering bitterness will give way to forgiveness and excitement about the future.

"For these fans," James said Wednesday, "it means everything."

That's because he means everything to them.

James and a Cavaliers team transformed over the summer by his return — plus the signing of All-Star guard Kyrie Irving to a contract extension and the acquisition of power forward Kevin Love — will open their NBA season on Thursday night against the New York Knicks.

This is the night Cleveland has been waiting for.

More than 20,000 fans, some paying more than \$1,000 for a ticket, will welcome James back home to where he began his basketball career. He'll again play before family, friends from Akron and the Cavs fans who feared he would never return after he bolted for Miami in 2010 to chase championships.

There's never been a night

like it in this city's tortured sports history, and it promises to be emotional for everyone, including James.

"It means everything to be able to open our NBA campaign here in Cleveland with these fans. It's going to be a special moment," James said. "We can't take it for granted. Moments like this, they don't come around every day."

The game will be secondary to the spectacle surrounding James' homecoming.

In the hours before tipoff, an apparel sponsor will unveil a new 10-story banner of James where a previous one of his likeness became a treasured city landmark before being removed in the days after he left.

A free concert featuring



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James shoots during practice Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, in Cleveland. It will be a night unlike any in Cleveland sports history as LeBron James returns to play his first NBA regular-season game for the Cavaliers in four years. Any bitterness toward James has been replaced with forgiveness by a city thirsting for a championship.

(AP Photo/Mark Duncan)

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hip-hop artist Kendrick Lamar and the rock band Imagine Dragons will take place across from the arena, and bars and restaurants will be overflowing with fans, thousands of whom can't get a ticket but want to celebrate something that in some ways feels bigger than a title.

James' return has not only made the Cavs one of the top favorites to win a title but he has spawned a financial wave for the region that is still building.

Cavs owner Dan Gilbert said James' impact on the area is immeasurable. It's created new jobs and other growth, giving the city a substantial shot in the arm as it undergoes an urban renaissance. Beyond that, James has renewed hope that Cleveland can celebrate its first pro sports championship since 1964. There are generations of Clevelanders who have

known only well-documented, nicknamed misery: The Drive, The Fumble, The Shot, The Move, and, of course, The Decision.

This is a chance to make it all feel better.

And for James and Gilbert, who have patched up their differences after an ugly separation, this is all about taking Cleveland to the top after grinding through the painful times.

"For us, the thing that drives us the most is delivering this for the fans of Cleveland," Gilbert said. "It will be 51 years, and that's what the emotion is really about that. Delivering for them, and hoping that day comes whether it's this year, next year or the following year, whenever it comes, and we believe it will."

A deafening roar will welcome James onto the court when he's introduced as the last member of Cleveland's starting lineup.

Federer, Murray advance at Paris Masters tournament

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Roger Federer was made to fight all the way by local favorite Jeremy Chardy before reaching the third round of the Paris Masters on Wednesday, while Andy Murray moved one match away from qualifying for the ATP Finals.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion completed a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 6-4 victory at the Palais Omnisports to keep his challenge for the year-end No. 1 ranking well on track. Federer could have sealed a quicker win but Chardy, who beat him on clay at the Rome Masters earlier this season, saved two match points at 5-4 in the second set before forcing a decider with a stunning crosscourt forehand winner.

"Chardy has made it hard for me in the past. I thought it could be tough, and it was," said Federer, who is

up against another Frenchman, Lucas Pouille, in the next round. "As the match went longer, the better I actually started to play and created more opportunities."

The 33-year-old Federer arrived in Paris undefeated in his past 12 matches on the back of consecutive titles in Shanghai and Basel, trailing top-ranked Novak Djokovic by 490 points.

With 2,500 points up for grabs between Paris and at the ATP Finals in London, Federer is looking to clinch the year-end top spot for a record-equaling sixth time. He will also have a chance to earn points with Switzerland in the Davis Cup final against France next month. Federer was tight-lipped when the Davis Cup was brought up in a media room packed with French reporters speculating whether Chardy should be picked for the final.

"I could answer, but I'm not



Andy Murray of Britain, returns the ball to Julien Benneteau of France during their second round match at the ATP World Tour Masters tennis tournament at Bercy stadium in Paris, France, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014. Murray won 6-3, 6-4.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

going to do that. I don't want to help the French captain," he said.

The Davis Cup is the only major trophy missing from Federer's collection and the Swiss star found time

to practice on clay earlier this month to prepare for the final. He even thought about skipping the Paris Masters to have more time to adapt to the surface picked by the French.

"But I did the clay (practice) after Shanghai, just so I had it done," Federer said. "Then after that, after I won Shanghai, for me it was clear I was going to play everything I could." □

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Mississippi State leads first College Football playoff rankings

MARC TRACY

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The College Football Playoff selection committee revealed its first set of rankings earlier this week, placing Mississippi State, Florida State, Auburn and Mississippi as its top four teams, in that order.

The 12-person committee met Monday and Tuesday in a conference room at the Gaylord Texan hotel near Dallas to debate the merits of each team and then determine its top 25. The top four teams when the final rankings are released Dec. 7 will gain entry into the inaugural playoff.

While Mississippi State and Florida State are undefeated, Auburn and Mississippi each have one loss. Rounding out the committee's top 10 were other strong one-loss teams in No. 5 Oregon, No. 6 Alabama, No. 7 Texas Christian, No. 8 Michigan State,

No. 9 Kansas State and No. 10 Notre Dame.

The committee's top four did not mirror those selected by The Associated Press this week: in that ranking,

Alabama was third and Auburn was fourth.

The highest-profile team to lose the most spots between the AP poll and the committee's was Notre

Dame, which slipped from No. 6 to No. 10.

The biggest beneficiaries of the committee were Mississippi (AP's No. 7), which is coming off a 10-7 loss at Louisiana State, and Texas Christian (No. 10). Placing Mississippi above Alabama most likely reflects an emphasis on head-to-head results - the Rebels beat the Crimson Tide, 23-17, on Oct. 4.

In an interview on ESPN minutes after the rankings were released, Jeff Long, the committee's chairman and Arkansas' athletic director, stressed that the members looked at teams' complete body of work.

"It's important for me to point out we really don't look at it as a conference," Long said. "We look at those teams, we analyze the teams they played, and we looked at the successes they had, the failures they had."

The final rankings, released the Sunday after several

conferences hold their championship games, will determine the composition of the six playoff-affiliated bowls, including the two semifinal bowls.

There are many more weeks of action left to jumble the playoff picture. Four of the top six teams are in the Southeastern Conference's West Division, and there are several matchups between them, including Auburn's game at Mississippi on Saturday night. The playoff committee will meet weekly and release six more sets of rankings. The members - which include five athletic directors, like Long and Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez; former coaches like Tom Osborne; and Condoleezza Rice, the former secretary of state - have been encouraged to let Long and Hancock represent the group to the news media. A 13th member, Archie Manning, is on leave this season because of health issues. □



Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott dives into the end zone for a touchdown during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Kentucky at Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington, Ky., Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014. The College Football Playoff selection committee revealed its first set of rankings earlier this week, placing Mississippi State, Florida State, Auburn and Mississippi as its top four teams, in that order.

(AP Photo/David Stephenson)

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English Roundup:

City's League Cup defense ended by Newcastle

STEVE DOUGLAS

AP Sports Writer

MANCHESTER, England (AP)

— Manchester City's defense of the League Cup was ended by a 2-0 home loss to Newcastle in the last 16 on Wednesday, with an injury to playmaker David Silva completing a miserable night for the out-of-form English champions.

Tottenham and Southampton also won to reach the quarterfinals, where Chelsea and Liverpool — the biggest teams left in the competition — face away matches at second-tier opponents Derby and Bournemouth, respectively.

Young striker Rolando Aarons scored in the sixth minute and France midfielder Moussa Sissoko dribbled through City's defense to add a brilliant second goal in the 76th for under-strength Newcastle, whose season began dreadfully but has been turned around with three straight wins.

Silva, one of City's most important players, came off at Etihad Stadium in the

eighth minute after twisting his left knee — four days before the derby against Manchester United in the Premier League.

In the past week, City has lost 2-1 at West Ham to drop six points behind Chelsea in the Premier League and squandered a two-goal lead to draw at CSKA Moscow in the Champions League, where it is struggling to qualify from its group.

"We all wanted to continue in this cup but we couldn't do it because we are not in a good moment," City manager Manuel Pellegrini said.

"We are conceding goals. We are not moving the ball as fast as we normally do. It was not a good week."

Newcastle's reward in the last eight was a trip to Tottenham, which beat second-tier Brighton 2-0 thanks to second-half goals by substitute Erik Lamela and Harry Kane at White Hart Lane.

Southampton won 3-2 at Stoke, with Italy striker Graziano Pelle scoring the win-

ner — his second of the game — in the 88th minute, moments after Peter Crouch was sent off for the hosts at Britannia Stadium.

The victory continued Southampton's superb

Premier League teams in the draw for quarterfinals, will next play third-tier Sheffield United — the lowest-ranked team remaining.

To cap a stunning night for Newcastle, whose last do-

have to scrape him off his bed tomorrow because he won't be able to move," said Newcastle manager Alan Pardew, whose job was under severe pressure a month ago but now looks more secure.

"It has been difficult the first part of this season but we believe in ourselves (and) have come through that spell."

The 18-year-old Aarons was one of a number of fringe players given a start, with Pardew having one eye on Saturday's early kickoff against Liverpool, but he took his chance to impress by latching onto a loose ball after Fernandinho was dispossessed. Aarons glided past Eliaquim Mangala and shot through the goalkeeper's legs for Newcastle's first goal against City in 525 minutes.

City was sloppy in possession and outfought by Newcastle, with Sissoko clinching victory by powering past Fernandinho and Bacary Sagna before poking his finish into the corner.



Manchester City's Aleksander Kolarov, right, fights for the ball against Newcastle's Gabriel Obertan during the English League Cup soccer match between Manchester City and Newcastle at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester, England, Wednesday Oct. 29, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jon Super)

start to the season, with the south-coast club second in the Premier League behind Chelsea and having won nine of its last 10 games in all competitions.

Southampton, one of five

mestic title was the FA Cup in 1955, midfielder Ryan Taylor completed 90 minutes in his first game for 26 months after two knee ligament injuries.

"I think one of our staff will

Spanish Roundup:

Varane nets 2, Madrid beats 3rd-tier rival in Copa

JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Raphael Varane headed in two corner kicks to help Real Madrid start its Copa del Rey title defense with a 4-1 win at third-division Cornella on Wednesday.

The France center back opened the scoring in the 10th of the first-leg match before Cornella striker Oscar Munoz leveled to the delight of the home fans in the 20th.

But Varane struck again in the 36th before forward Javier Hernandez and Marcelo added goals in the second half.

Not too far away, Iago Aspas hit a hat trick as Sevilla won 6-1 at second-division Sabadell to take control of its tie.

A semi-professional team, Cornella fielded a starting

11 that included a dentist, a topographer and an employee of the city's bike sharing scheme.

Marcelo's celebration of his 75th-minute goal that included a somersault and a sprint to hug teammates in the dugout didn't sit well

with some of Cornella's players.

"We play in the third division and we don't make a lot of money, sometimes you have to know where you are at," Munoz said. "He told me that he had to celebrate it. But it's over

now. No worries."

Despite the defeat, Cornella's players went on a lap of the pitch after the final whistle to receive the praise of their supporters.

"We had to take advantage of it," Munoz said. "It was the first time I have ever played in front of so many people."

It was Madrid's 10th straight win in all competitions. It has outscored opponents 42-7 in that run.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti rested Cristiano Ronaldo, but otherwise the Italian manager took no chances and aligned all first-team players.

Germany midfielder Sami Khedira made his first start of the season, while goalkeeper Keylor Navas got his second start since joining from Levante during the summer.

Apart from failing to deal with Varane, Cornella played above its status for long stretches of the match played at Espanyol's Power8 Stadium, in the Barcelona neighborhood whose name Cornella shares. Cornella reached the deal to play at the 40,000-seat stadium because its home ground only holds 1,500.

The European champions, however, had little trouble securing victory.

"The atmosphere was very good. We had a lot of fans here," Ancelotti said. "They worked very hard and showed they were well organized. All the fans can be happy with the entertaining game."

Varane jumped above two defenders to redirect James Rodriguez's cross home to set Madrid on its way.



Real Madrid's Francisco Isco, right, duels for the ball against Cornella's Pelegri during a Copa del Rey soccer match in Cornella Llobregat, Spain, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014.

(AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

Enterovirus 68 suspected;

Cause of children's paralysis remains undetermined

CATHERINE SAINT LOUIS
© 2014 New York Times

More than 50 children in 23 states have had mysterious episodes of paralysis to their arms or legs, according to data gathered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The cause is not known, although some doctors suspect the cases may be linked to infection with enterovirus 68, a respiratory virus that has sickened thousands of children in recent months.

Concerned by a cluster of cases in Colorado, the CDC last month asked doctors and state health officials nationwide to begin compiling detailed reports about cases of unusual limb weakness in children. Experts convened by the agency plan next week to release interim guidelines on managing the condition.

That so many children have had full or partial paralysis in a short period is unusual, but officials said that the cases seemed to be extremely rare.

"At the moment, it looks like whatever the chances are of getting this syndrome are less than 1 in a million," said Mark A. Pallansch, the director of the division of viral diseases at the CDC.

Some of the affected chil-

dren have lost the use of a leg or an arm, and are having physical therapy to keep their muscles conditioned. Others have sustained more extensive damage and require help breathing.



A 4-year-old boy who had experienced episodes of paralysis attends physical therapy to help rebuild his strength and balance at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charleston, Mass., Oct. 28, 2014. Some doctors suspect the mysterious episodes of paralysis in the arms and legs of more than 50 children could be linked to enterovirus 68, but so far the cause has not been determined.
(Kayana Szymczak/The New York Times)

Marie, who asked to be identified by her middle name to protect her family's privacy, said her 4-year-old son used to climb jungle gyms. But in late September, after the entire family had been sick with a respiratory illness, he started having trouble

climbing onto the couch. He walked into Boston Children's Hospital the day he was admitted. But soon his neck grew so weak, it "flopped completely back like he was a newborn," Marie said.

Typically, the time from when weakness begins until it reaches its worst is one to three days. But for her son, eight mornings in a row, he awoke with a "brand new deficit" until he had some degree of weakness in each limb and had trouble breathing. He

was eventually transferred to a Spaulding rehabilitation center, where he is now.

More than 100 similar cases have been brought to the attention of the CDC. But only half fit the agency's

Hospital, which has treated six patients.

"If you include those other cases, it would dilute any potential to find a cause," he said.

For instance, routine transverse myelitis is a neurological disorder that causes motor weakness, but scans of the spinal cord in those patients usually show inflammation in the gray and the white matter of the spinal cord. Children suffering recent instances of limb weakness have damage largely in the gray matter of the spine.

Pallansch stressed that investigators were looking at a number of possible causes.

"We don't have a single clear hypothesis that's the leading one at this point," he said.

An unusual outbreak of a respiratory pathogen, enterovirus 68, has spread to more than 45 states since mid-August. Some doctors have suggested that the infection could be linked to the appearance of unusual polioli-like symptoms.

But not all of the children with limb weakness have tested positive for enterovirus 68. "It's very difficult to say that this is causal," said Dr. Teri Schreiner, a neurologist at Children's Hospital Colorado. □

Study: Sleep woes common among troubled children

© 2014 HealthDay

(HealthDay News) - Sleep difficulties, particularly problems falling asleep, are common among toddlers and preschoolers with mental health issues, according to a new study. "Sleep problems in young children frequently co-occur with other behavioral problems, with evidence that inadequate sleep is associated with daytime sleepiness, less optimal preschool adjustment, and problems of irritability, hyperactivity and attention," said the study's leader, John Boekamp, clinical director of the pediatric partial hospital program at Bradley Hospital in Providence, R.I.

However, he said, sleep disorders may be unrecognized and underdiagnosed in young children, particularly when behavioral or emotional problems are present.

The study, published online in *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*, involved 183 children aged 6 years or younger receiving outpatient treatment for psychiatric problems. The researchers examined the prevalence of sleep disorders among these children and the nature of the sleep problems.

"The most common sleep difficulties reported nationally for toddlers and preschoolers are problems of going to bed, fall-

ing asleep and frequent night awakenings. Collectively, these problems are referred to as behavioral insomnias of childhood," said Boekamp in a hospital news release.

Recognized sleep disorders, particularly sleep-onset insomnia, were more common than expected, the researchers found. Overall, 41 percent of children in the study met the criteria to diagnose a sleep disorder.

Sleep problems were most common in kids with disruptive behavior, and attention, anxiety and mood problems, the researchers found.

Early sleep problems could not only be the re-

sult of behavioral and emotional problems, but could also contribute to them, the researchers noted.

"Essentially, these young children might be caught in a cycle, with sleep disruption affecting their psychiatric symptoms, and psychiatric symptoms affecting their sleep-wake organization," said Boekamp. "It is important for families to be aware of how important sleep is to the behavioral adjustment and well-being of young children."

Sleep problems can complicate treatment for challenging behaviors, such as aggression and attention and mood problems.

Daytime sleepiness and fatigue can make these problems even worse, the study's authors noted.

"This study is a great reminder that it's critical for mental health providers working with young children and their families to ask about children's sleep," said Boekamp.

"Simple questions about children's sleep patterns, including how long it takes a child to fall asleep at night and how frequently a child awakens after falling asleep, may yield important information that is relevant to clinical care, even when sleep problems are not the primary focus of treatment," he explained. □

Facebook to spend billions on future projects; profit rises 90%

VINDU GOEL

© 2014 New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO - Facebook shareholders got a sobering reminder on Tuesday: It's Mark Zuckerberg's company, and he is determined to spend billions of dollars over the next decade on ventures that might never generate substantial profits.

Facebook reported strong growth in revenue and profit for the third quarter, continuing its recent string of impressive performances. But in a conference call to discuss the results with investors, Zuckerberg, Facebook's co-founder and chief executive, focused more on his vision for the company over the next three, five and 10 years.

He talked about his recent \$21.8 billion acquisition of WhatsApp and how he wanted to take the mobile messaging app quickly to a billion users from 600 million. ("For us, products really don't get that interesting to turn into businesses until they have about 1 billion people using them," he said.) He mused about the potential of Oculus VR, the virtual reality company that Facebook bought for \$2 billion, which will need "a bunch of years" to sell enough of its still-unfinished headsets to contribute to Facebook's bottom line.

And he waxed eloquent about the prospect of bringing people in poor countries like Zambia onto the Internet, an almost charitable endeavor that won't reap financial returns for a long time. Not once did he utter the word profit.

Zuckerberg has 55 percent voting control over Facebook, according to the company's most recent proxy statement. So if investors do not agree with his vision, they don't have much choice but to sell. And many did, sending the company's stock down 8.3 percent in after-hours trading.

"Wall Street cares about the business model. We care less about changing the world," said Laura Martin, an analyst with Need-

ham & Co.

Zuckerberg's emphasis on the company's long-term plans echoes similar pronouncements from other founder-controlled tech companies like Google and Amazon, which have periodically shocked investors with enormous investments in goofy-sounding projects like self-driving cars and video streaming services.

His comments, along with the disclosure that expenses could rise as much as 75 percent next year to help carry out that vision, overshadowed what was an otherwise great quarter for the company.

Facebook said third-quarter revenue grew 59 percent from the same period a year earlier, to \$3.2 billion. Most of Facebook's revenue comes from advertising, and the company said about two-thirds of those dollars now come from ads on mobile devices, up from half a year ago.

"Our strong results show the shift to mobile is working," Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer, said in an interview. "Our performance is very broad-based. Our growth is across all of our regions." Net income in the quarter was \$806 million, or 30 cents a share, up 90 percent



People walk across the Facebook campus in Menlo Park, Calif. Most of Facebook's revenue comes from advertising, and the company said that two-thirds of those dollars now come from ads on mobile devices.

(Jim Willson/The New York Times)

from the \$425 million, or 17 cents a share, it earned a year ago. Excluding costs related to acquisitions, employee compensation and taxes, Facebook made a profit of \$1.15 billion, or 43 cents a share, up 73 percent from last year.

Wall Street analysts had expected the company to earn 40 cents a share on that adjusted basis and to post revenue of \$3.1 billion. Facebook, already the world's largest social network, said it had 1.35 billion monthly users in Septem-

ber, up from 1.32 billion in June, and 64 percent of them used the service daily, up slightly from the second quarter.

Expenses were low enough that the company posted an operating profit margin of 44 percent - normally a figure that would thrill investors.

"The core business is phenomenal. Outside of Google search ads, this is the best business we've seen on the Internet," said Ben Schachter, an analyst with Macquarie Securities.

But the enthusiasm faded as Zuckerberg started talking about the company's long-term investments. Facebook's chief financial officer, David Wehner, then warned that next year, expenses would rise 55 to 75 percent as the company invested in its new initiatives, including WhatsApp, Oculus and advertising platforms like Atlas that allow marketers to choose the age, gender and other attributes they want to target for ads delivered beyond Facebook. □

FCC proposes à la carte internet video services

EDWARD WYATT

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WASHINGTON - Seeking to give online video a chance to compete against cable and satellite television providers, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission proposed a measure Tuesday that would give online companies equal access to cable and broadcast stations.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said the result would be to allow services to offer à la carte programming, with consumers able to choose what channels they wanted to buy.

"Consumers have long complained about how their cable service forces them to buy channels they never watch," Wheeler

wrote in an FCC blog post. "The move of video onto the Internet can do something about that frustration - but first Internet video services need access to the programs."

The proposal would allow some so-called over-the-top online video providers to be classified as "multichannel video programming distributors," or MVPDs, which by law are allowed to carry cable and local broadcast stations, provided they can agree on financial terms.

Companies that offer on-demand video streaming - Netflix and Amazon, for example - would not be affected by the rules, which would apply only to companies that offer view-

ers a scheduled lineup of programs. But several companies have expressed interest in becoming online MVPDs, including Dish, Sony, DirecTV and Verizon. "I am asking the commission to start a rule-making proceeding in which we would modernize our interpretation of the term 'multichannel video programming distributor' so that it is technology-neutral," Wheeler wrote. "The definition of an MVPD should turn on the services that a provider offers, not on how those services reach viewers. Twenty-first-century consumers shouldn't be shackled to rules that only recognize 20th-century technology."

The process could take

months or more. A majority of the five FCC commissioners would have to approve releasing a proposal for public comment; after a comment period, they would have to vote to adopt a formal rule.

One company that has already expressed interest is Aereo, which recently lost its bid in the Supreme Court to retransmit broadcast programming.

"This is an important step in the right direction for consumers," said Chet Kanojia, chief executive and founder of Aereo. "Clarifying the definition of MVPD to encompass linear online video distributors will create a stronger, more competitive television landscape for consumers." □

Stocks slip after Fed statement; Dollar gains

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An optimistic statement from the Federal Reserve sent the dollar up and gold prices down Wednesday as traders prepared for rising interest rates. Major U.S. stock indexes ended with a slight loss after the Fed confirmed

and was happy the Fed didn't extend its stimulus effort. Launching another round of bond purchases would have raised worries about the economy and backfired, he said.

"They don't have a lot of bullets left to shoot at any problems," he said. "The effectiveness of quantitative easing diminishes each

ment officer at Barrack Yard Advisors, said the market should be able to handle an interest rate increase from near zero to something slightly higher. The Fed has made clear that it plans to move carefully. "The fact is, easy money is still here," he said. "They're not taking away the punch bowl,

in a note to clients. "They halted the QE purchases today, and tomorrow, rate hikes are coming. Bet on it." Gold dropped and the dollar jumped after the statement came out Wednesday afternoon. Gold fell \$17.70, or 1.4 percent, to \$1,211.70 an ounce. Silver fell 14 cents to \$17.09 an ounce. Copper lost a penny to \$3.08 a pound. A widely used gauge of the dollar's strength against other currencies, the ICE dollar index, rose 0.6 percent to 85.96.

U.S. government bond prices dipped, nudging the yield on the 10-year Treasury note up to 2.32 percent.

Solid earnings from Caterpillar, Microsoft and other big companies have helped the stock market recover from its slide earlier this month. Nearly half of the big companies in the S&P 500 index have turned in third-quarter results, and more than seven out of 10 have cleared analysts' targets, according to S&P Capital IQ. Earnings are on track to rise 6 percent for the third quarter.

Videogame maker Electronic Arts turned in earnings that topped analysts' estimates and raised its profit projections for the year. Sales of "FIFA 14," a soccer game, and "Titanfall," a first-person shooter game, helped lift revenue. EA's stock rose \$1.43, or 4 percent, to \$38.91.

Facebook lost 6 percent after its chief financial officer said that expenses for the social networking giant could increase by as much as 75 percent next year as it ramps up spending on investments. Its stock dropped \$4.91 to \$75.86. □

Sanofi ousting CEO over style, dropping sales

GREG KELLER
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French drug-maker Sanofi sacked its CEO Wednesday following a board room rift over his way of handling one of France's largest publicly traded companies.

Christopher Viehbacher, the first non-Frenchman to lead Sanofi, was dismissed after six years running the company that traces its roots to the early 19th century.

In a statement announcing the ouster, Sanofi's board referred to the rift with the Canadian-German Viehbacher only obliquely, saying the company needs "a management aligning the teams, harnessing talents and focusing on execution with a close and confident cooperation with the Board."

Viehbacher, 54, will be temporarily replaced by Sanofi chairman Serge Weinberg, 63, the one-time head of Gucci parent company PPR who was himself ousted following a rift with his board.

Weinberg said the board unanimously decided to fire Viehbacher because of dissatisfaction with his management style and disappointing execution of matters including a loss of U.S. market share for Sanofi's key diabetes drug.

In a conference call with analysts, Weinberg also criticized Viehbacher's communication with the board, saying "it didn't work." He cited Viehbacher's plan to offload a multi-billion-euro portfolio of slow growing or declining drugs, saying the board had learned of it in the press. "This is not appropriate," Weinberg said.

Sanofi's shares more than doubled during Viehbacher's six years at the helm as he cut costs and shifted focus to biotechnology, vaccines and over-the-counter medications. He orchestrated the \$20 billion takeover of U.S. biotech firm Genzyme in 2011. But his move earlier this year to Boston from Paris, where he'd moved after taking the helm at Sanofi, raised eyebrows in France. □



Specialist Donald Himpele Jr., second left, calls out prices during the IPO of Shell Midstream Partners, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014. An optimistic statement from the Federal Reserve sent the dollar up and gold prices down Wednesday as traders prepared for rising interest rates. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

that it was shutting down a bond-buying program because the economy no longer needs as much help.

At the end of a two-day meeting, the Fed said that it had ended its \$4 trillion bond-buying program, known as quantitative easing, or QE for short, as a result of "underlying strength in the broader economy."

"I was pleasantly surprised," said Brad Sorenson, director of market and sector analysis at Charles Schwab. Sorenson liked the statement's optimistic tone

time it's done."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.75 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,982.30. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 31.44 points, or 0.2 percent, to 16,974.31. The Nasdaq composite fell 15.07 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,549.23.

The S&P 500 index, the benchmark for most investment funds, is now up half a percent for the month of October. It had slumped as much as 6 percent on Oct. 15 as a host of concerns sent markets tumbling.

Marty Leclerc, chief invest-

they're just dialing down the amount of booze in the punch."

The Fed restated a pledge to keep its benchmark short-term rate near zero, but it also pointed to signs of strength in the job market. Most economists think the Fed won't raise that rate until the middle of next year.

"Today's statement shows the Fed believes the economy is nearing the final stages of full recovery," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi,

Goodyear 3Q profit falls, but beats expectations

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Goodyear Tire's third-quarter net income fell 3 percent as tire sales fell around the world, but its adjusted earnings easily beat Wall Street expectations.

Shares of the tire maker rose 10 percent in premarket trading Wednesday. Goodyear reported net

income of \$161 million, or 58 cents per share, in the quarter ending Sept. 30, compared with \$166 million, or 62 cents per share, in the same quarter a year ago.

Adjusted to remove certain one-time items, the company earned 87 cents per share. Analysts expect-

ed 70 cents, according to FactSet.

Revenue fell 6.9 percent to \$4.7 billion from \$5 billion, and missed Wall Street forecasts. Analysts expected revenue of \$4.9 billion.

The company said sales were hurt by unfavorable foreign currency exchanges. Sales in North America

fell 6 percent to \$2.06 billion. They fell 8 percent to \$1.62 billion from \$1.75 billion in Europe, Middle East and Africa and fell 14 percent to \$451 million in Latin America.

Shares of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., based in Akron, Ohio, rose to \$24.12 in premarket trading. □

Shell Midstream surges in IPO's 1st day on NYSE

HOUSTON (AP) — Shell Midstream Partners LP is soaring in its debut on the New York Stock Exchange. Its common units jumped \$9.32, or 40.5 percent, to \$32.32 in Wednesday morning trading. Shell Midstream's initial public offering of 40 million common units raised \$920 million. The master limited partnership, which was created by Royal Dutch Shell to own,

run, develop and acquire pipelines and other midstream assets, priced the offering at \$23 per unit. That's above the projected price range of \$19 to \$21 per unit. The Houston company's assets include stakes in Zydeco Pipeline Co., Mars Oil Pipeline Co., and Bengal Pipeline Co., which all operate in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. Mars also works in the Gulf of Mexico.

The company also has a small stake in Colonial Pipeline Co., which owns pipelines running from Texas to the Northeast. The underwriters have a 30-day option to buy up to an additional 6 million units from Shell Midstream. The stock is trading under the ticker symbol "SHLX." Once the offering closes, the public will own a 29 percent limited partner interest in Shell Midstream.

That will increase to 33.4 percent if the underwriters fully exercise their option. Royal Dutch Shell will own the remaining limited partner interest, along with its 2 percent general partner interest. Sientra Inc. also started trading on the Nasdaq on Wednesday. The stock — trading under the "SIEN" ticker symbol — surged \$2, or 13 percent, to \$17 in morning trading.

The breast implant maker raised \$75 million from its IPO of 5 million shares. The offering priced at \$15 per share, the midpoint of the projected range of \$14 to \$16 per share. The underwriters have a 30-day option to buy up to an additional 750,000 shares. Sientra is based in Santa Barbara, California. Both offerings are targeted to close on Nov. 3.

Healthcare overhaul ramps up business at WellPoint

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — WellPoint raised its 2014 earnings forecast again and trumped third-quarter expectations as the overhaul of the health care system adds millions to the nation's health insurance rolls, and at a lower cost than was expected at the nation's second largest health insurer. The Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurer expects earnings growth in 2015 as well, and CEO Joseph Swedish said the company is weighing larger dividends. Company shares rose more than 2 percent at the open of trading Wednesday. The Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurer now expects 2014 adjusted earnings to range between \$8.75 and \$8.85 per share. That's up from a forecast it made in July for earnings of more than \$8.60 per share. The new forecast marks the third time this year that WellPoint has raised its outlook.

Analysts had been looking for annual per-share earnings of \$8.74 per share, according to FactSet.

ment Research. The Indianapolis insurer's big quarter comes after competitors Aetna Inc. and

ated by the overhaul, the federal law that aims to cover millions of uninsured people. Late last year, the

help from income-based tax credits. But the overhaul also heaped additional costs onto the balance sheets of insurers, including an industry-wide tax that is non-deductible. It trimmed funding for Medicare Advantage plans and altered the manner in which insurers operate by preventing them from excluding high-risk patients. Insurers were plunged into new territory, unsure of what their exchange customer base would look like, and a glitch-plagued debut of the exchanges created even more ambiguity. A year later, these challenges appear manageable, and investors see much less uncertainty ahead for health insurers. WellPoint said it has added 751,000 customers from the public exchanges, and they have turned out to be less expensive than initially anticipated. The insurer also has added enrollment through Medicaid expansion.



This photo shows the corporate headquarters of Wellpoint in Indianapolis. Wellpoint reported quarterly financial results Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014.

(AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

WellPoint Inc. also posted adjusted earnings of \$2.36 per share in the third quarter, which was much better than the \$2.28 that analysts had projected, according to a poll by Zacks Invest-

UnitedHealth Group Inc. also topped quarterly expectations and raised their annual forecasts. Insurers began the year cautious about a major coverage expansion ini-

U.S. introduced state-based public health insurance exchanges that promised to give insurers millions of new customers by making it easier for people to buy coverage, sometimes with

Orbital Sciences' stock plummets after explosion

NEW YORK (AP) — Shares of Orbital Sciences tumbled in Wednesday morning trading after the aerospace company's unmanned rocket bound for the International Space Station exploded moments after lift-off on Tuesday evening. No injuries were reported. The Orbital Sciences' Antares commercial supply rocket blew up over the beachside launch com-

plex at Wallops Island in Virginia. The company said everyone at the site had been accounted for, and the damage appeared to be limited to the facilities. NASA is paying billions of dollars to Orbital Sciences and the SpaceX company to make deliveries to the Space Station, and it's counting on SpaceX and Boeing to start flying U.S. astronauts to the orbiting lab

as early as 2017. This was to be the fourth flight by Orbital Sciences to the Space Station. Until Tuesday, all of the supply missions by Orbital Sciences, based in Dulles, Virginia, and Elon Musk's SpaceX, had gone off with no major problems. Orbital Sciences carried insurance on the failed Tuesday mission, and Executive Vice President Frank Culbertson said that it would not

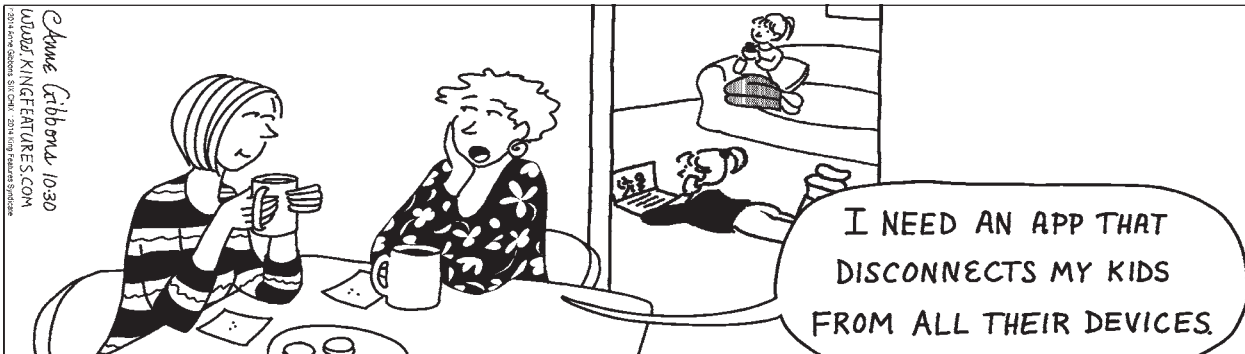
fly until it understands the root cause of the incident. Howard Rubel of Jefferies said in a client note that the rocket's failure "may hamper, but not prevent, Orbital from signing contracts with additional customers for Antares." For some context, Rubel said that the last time Orbital had a major rocket failure was in 2011 during a Taurus XL launch. The day

of that failure, Rubel said, Orbital's stock fell as much as 8 percent but wound up making back some ground, closing down about 1.6 percent. In the 2011 failure, a climate satellite fell into the Pacific shortly after lifting off. Shares of Orbital Sciences Corp. dropped \$4.35, or 14.3 percent, to \$26.02 in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

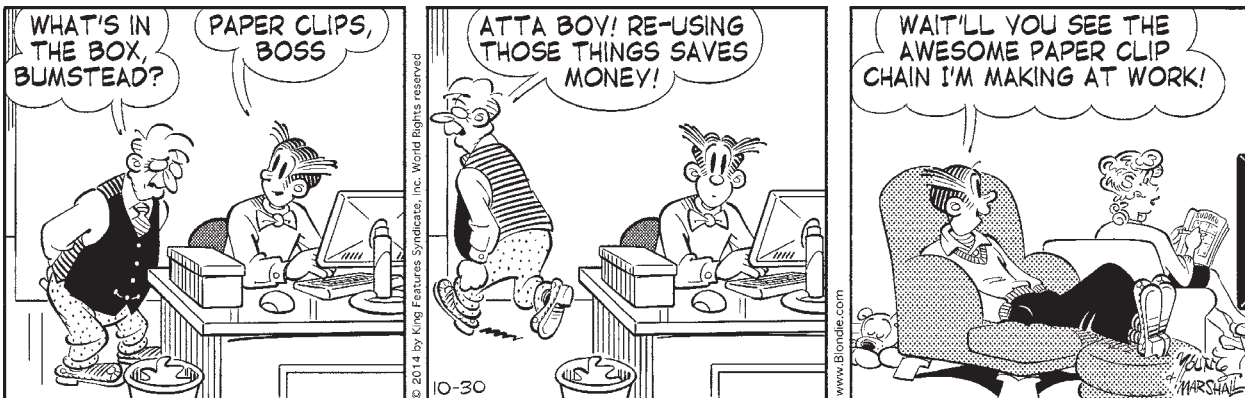
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4			9	8	6		5	
	6		3					2
						1		
1	8							6
2								4
5							8	9
		4						
3				5		4		
	1		8	4	7			3

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/30

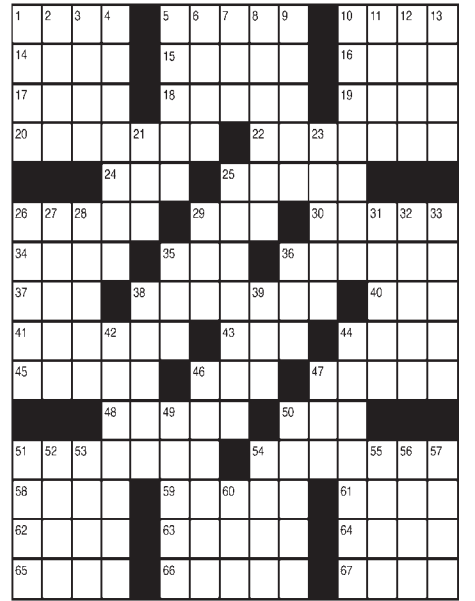
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	1	5	2	9	8	3	7	6
3	2	9	7	6	4	1	5	8
8	7	6	5	3	1	2	9	4
9	3	7	6	4	5	8	1	2
2	8	1	9	7	3	4	6	5
6	5	4	1	8	2	7	3	9
1	6	8	4	5	7	9	2	3
7	9	3	8	2	6	5	4	1
5	4	2	3	1	9	6	8	7

ACROSS

- Fundamentals; basics
 - Camel's smaller cousin
 - Ceremony
 - Jump
 - Had a bug
 - Goofs
 - Create
 - Actor Michael
 - Chicken's home
 - Mississippi riverboat
 - Galore
 - Baby goat
 - Played a role
 - Angered
 - Half and half
 - ___ up; prepares
 - Consumer
 - Cushion
 - Odd man out
 - Sheep's cry
 - Loyal citizen
 - Wedding words
 - Not as difficult
 - Shade tree
 - Long journey
 - Aroma
 - Hole-making tool
 - "___ have all the flowers gone..."
 - ___ out; vanishes slowly
 - Observe
 - Not as large
 - Supervisor
 - Molten rock
 - Stogie or claro
 - African nation
 - Leave out
 - Fraternity letter
 - Thus
 - Walk in shallow water
 - Make a long cut
 - "Give it a ___"; plea to a motormouth
- ### DOWN
- Charitable gift
 - Outscore
 - Angel food ___
 - Orator
 - Tied an old corset
 - Dishonest one
 - Famed heavyweight
 - Troublemaker
 - Skillful
 - Diminishes
 - Common metal
 - Horse's gait
 - Catch sight of
 - Prefix for night or wife
 - Allowed by law, for short
 - Actress Julie
 - Unsophisticated
 - Sir ___ Newton
 - Rent long-term
 - Cereal grain
 - Blazing
 - Equestrian
 - Feed a furnace
 - ___ for the course; usual
 - May honoree
 - Part of a flower
 - Sick



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/30/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

FIR	JERKS	ETCH
ONES	ARENA	NILE
GNAT	CRUER	GEAR
SLACKENED	URNS	
TOAD	ILL	
UNCURL	MANIFEST	
SIREN	MIXED	MOO
EXES	POKES	HOB
ROD	SHOES	HOTEL
SNOOPERS	RULERS	
BAA	BALD	
SOSO	SOLITAIRE	
THAI	ADAPT	NORM
OILS	NOVEL	GAGA
POET	TRADE	DOC

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10/30/14

- Pump up
- Movie house
- Antenna
- Scalp cyst
- Knocks to the ground
- Alaska's Palin
- As ___ as molasses
- Baby's first word, perhaps
- Enthusiastic
- Atlas pages
- Clinton's VP
- Benedict; fancy breakfast
- beer float
- Student's avg.



The church of San Marcos, an acclaimed architectural landmark made almost entirely of iron and declared by a plaque to be built by Gustave Eiffel in 1875, in Arica, Chile in October, 2014.

(Meridiith Kohut/The New York Times)

Not everything that towers is Eiffel's

WILLIAM NEUMAN

© 2014 New York Times

AREQUIPA, Peru - The locals here call it the Iron Bridge, a narrow, graceful span across the Chili River with pale green garlic fields below and the cleft-topped Misti volcano rising above it in the distance. Travel books, tour guides and residents all proudly point to the bridge, a fluent expression of the Industrial Revolution, as the work of Gustave Eiffel, the 19th-century French engineer who built the Eiffel Tower and designed the iron skeleton inside the Statue of Liberty.

Except that it is not. And neither are a great many other bridges and buildings around Peru and the rest of South America that are popularly attributed to the famous Frenchman.

"Anything made of metal in South America, people say it is by Eiffel," said Darci Gutierrez, a professor of architecture in Arequipa, Peru's second city, who has spent years debunking what she calls the Eiffel myth.

The myth does have a grain of fact to it. As a

young man, years before his tower for the 1889 Paris World's Fair made him famous, Eiffel ran a growing engineering business in France, designing buildings and bridges for clients around the world and shipping the structures in prefabricated iron pieces, to be assembled on the site like an Erector set.

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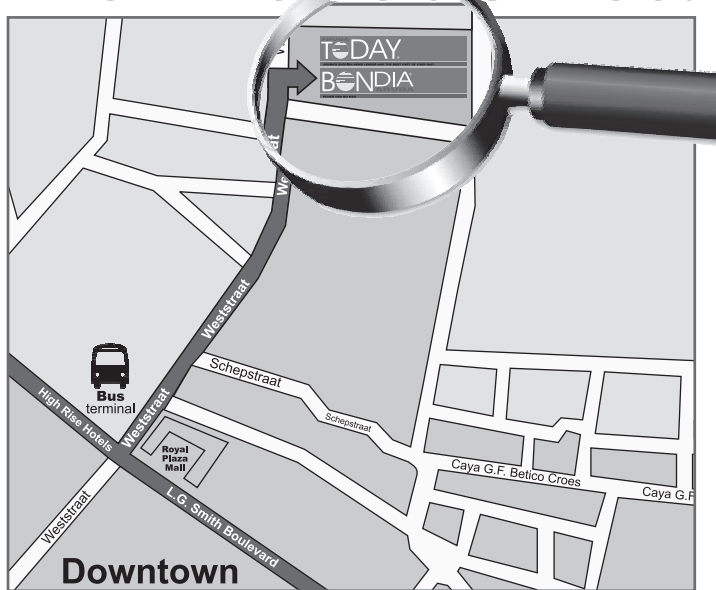
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Russians deliver space station cargo after US flop

BROCK VERGAKIS

MARCIA DUNN

Associated Press

ATLANTIC, Virginia (AP) —

The company behind the dramatic launch explosion of a space station supply mission promises to find the cause of the failure and is warning residents to avoid any potentially hazardous wreckage.

Orbital Sciences Corp.'s unmanned Antares rocket blew up just moments after liftoff Tuesday evening from the Virginia coast.

Meanwhile, early Wednesday, the Russian Space Agency launched its own cargo vessel from Kazakhstan and the spacecraft arrived at the International Space Station six hours later with 3 tons of food. The smooth flight was in stark contrast to the Orbital Sciences' failed launch, and had been planned well in advance of the accident.

The Orbital Sciences rocket was carrying a Cygnus capsule loaded with 2½ tons of space station experiments and equipment for NASA. No one was injured when the rocket exploded moments after liftoff, shooting flaming debris down onto the launch area and into the ocean.

Ground crews were ready to access the fire-stricken area of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility at daybreak Wednesday to search for accident debris.

The company's Cygnus cargo ship was carrying 5,000 pounds (2,300 kilograms) of experiments and equipment for NASA, as well as prepackaged meals and, in a generous touch, freeze-dried Maryland crabcakes for a Baltimore-

nies in the post-shuttle era. NASA is paying billions of dollars to Virginia-based Orbital Sciences and the California-based SpaceX company to make station deliveries, and it's counting on SpaceX and Boeing to start flying U.S. astronauts to

campaign rally and was kept informed.

Orbital Sciences' executive vice president Frank Culbertson said the company carried insurance on the mission, which he valued at more than \$200 million, not counting repair

"Certainly don't go souvenir hunting along the beach," he said.

Things began to go wrong 10 to 12 seconds into the flight and it was all over in 20 seconds when what was left of the rocket came crashing down, Culbertson said. He said he believes the range-safety staff sent a destruct signal before it hit the ground, but was not certain. This was the second launch attempt for the mission. Monday evening's try was thwarted by a stray sailboat in the rocket's danger zone. The restrictions are in case of just such an accident that occurred Tuesday.

Culbertson said the top priority will be repairing the launch pad "as quickly and safely as possible."

"We will not fly until we understand the root cause," he said, adding that it was too early to guess how long it might take to make the rocket repairs and fix the launch pad. It will take a few weeks, alone, to assess the damage and extent of potential repairs.

Culbertson also stressed that it was too soon to know whether the Russian-built engines, modified for the Antares and extensively tested, were to blame.

"We will understand what happened — hopefully soon — and we'll get things back on track," Culbertson assured his devastated team. "We've all seen this happen in our business before, and we've all seen the teams recover from this, and we will do the same." The Wallops facility is small compared to NASA's major centers like those in Florida, Texas and California, but vaulted into the public spotlight in September 2013 with a NASA moonshot and the first Cygnus launch to the space station. □



This image taken from video provided by NASA TV shows Orbital Sciences Corp.'s unmanned rocket blowing up over the launch complex at Wallops Island, Va., just six seconds after liftoff. The company says no one was believed to be hurt and the damage appeared to be limited to the facilities.
(AP Photo/NASA TV)

born astronaut who's been in orbit for five months.

All of the lost materials will be replaced and flown to the 260-mile (420-kilometer)-high space station, NASA's station program manager Mike Suffredini said. The six-person space station crew has enough supplies to last well into spring.

The accident is sure to draw scrutiny to the space agency's growing reliance on private U.S. compa-

the orbiting lab as early as 2017.

It was the fourth Cygnus bound for the orbiting lab; the first flew just over a year ago. SpaceX is scheduled to launch another Dragon supply ship from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in December.

"Today's launch attempt will not deter us from our work to expand our already successful capability to launch cargo from American shores to the International Space Station," NASA's human exploration chief, Bill Gerstenmaier, said in a statement following the accident.

Until Tuesday, all of the supply missions by Orbital Sciences and SpaceX had been near-flawless.

President Barack Obama has long championed this commercial space effort. He was in Wisconsin for a

costs. The explosion hit Orbital Science's stock, which fell more than 15 percent in after-hours trading.

John Logdson, former space policy director at George Washington University, said the explosion was unlikely to be a major setback to NASA's commercial space plans. But he noted it could derail Orbital Sciences for a while given the company has just one launch pad and the accident occurred right above it.

At a news conference Tuesday night, Culbertson and others said everyone at the launch site had been accounted for and the damage appeared to be limited to the facilities.

He noted that the cargo module was carrying hazardous materials and warned residents to avoid any contact with debris.

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YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — In person, Shota Sometani is still and quiet, speaking in a soft, almost lackadaisical voice. His ideal acting role, he says, would be one in which he couldn't rely on facial expressions, such as a character wearing a mask. The 22-year-old, who has acted since age 7, has earned a reputation for serious acting in dozens of ambitious Japanese movies. And his gentle air is not superficial technique, but the drive to be a true actor. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Sometani made clear he was reaching for something deeper.

He demonstrated his ability to express devastating angst in his heart-wrenching portrayal of an abused youngster in Japanese auteur Sion Sono's "Himizu." Sometani won the Marcello Mastorianni Award for best emerging actor at the 2011 Venice Film Festival with his co-star for that work. "I want to do the kind of acting that's convincing and complete, just by standing there, even without any words," he said. "It's a mystery. I don't have a method, even in myself. You have to believe in the role, the blood that's flowing in the character, the basics."

Although he has not gotten any Hollywood offers yet, Sometani says he is ready, studying English so he feels comfortable acting in that language. He has also directed short films of his own.

Sometani is on track to be possibly the next global star from Japan, following in the footsteps of Toshiro Mifune of Akira Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai" and, more recently, Ken Watanabe, who appeared in "Inception" and "Godzilla."

He is in the spotlight for this year's Tokyo Film Festival, starring in Thursday's closing film "Parasyte," a science-fiction thriller directed by Takashi Yamazaki. □

Elton John at AIDS event: Pope Francis is my hero

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Elton John called Pope Francis "my hero" for his compassion and push to accept gays by the Roman Catholic Church, at his annual AIDS benefit.

John hosted the event, "An Enduring Vision: A Benefit for the Elton John AIDS Foundation," Tuesday night in New York City. He said Francis is pushing boundaries in the church and told the crowd: "Make this man a saint now, OK?" "Ten years ago one of the biggest obstacles in the fight against AIDS was the Catholic Church. Today we have a pope that speaks out about it," said John, earning cheers from the attendees at Cipriani's on Wall Street.

Catholic bishops scrapped a proposed landmark welcome to gays earlier this month, showing deep divisions at the end of a two-week meeting sought by Francis to chart a more relevant approach to ministering to Catholic families.



Elton John performs at the Elton John AIDS Foundation's 13th Annual "An Enduring Vision" benefit at Cipriani's Wall Street on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2014, in New York.

(Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP)

An earlier draft of the document offered a welcoming tone of acceptance, but that was stripped away after the bishops failed to reach consensus on a watered-down section on ministering to homosexuals. "He is a compassionate, loving man who wants ev-

erybody to be included in the love of God," John said of the pope. "It is formidable what he is trying to do against many, many people in the church that opposes. He is courageous and he is fearless, and that's what we need in the world today."

John, who wrote an op-ed for New York Times on Tuesday, also honored New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo for his plan to end the AIDS epidemic in his state by 2020.

"Good evening to all of you, the queen of England," Cuomo said as the crowd laughed, "I'm from Queens, but I think there's a different interpretation there." More jokes came throughout the night, where attendees included John's husband, David Furnish, Neil Patrick Harris, Alec Baldwin, Matt Lauer and host Anderson Cooper. A lunch date with newsmen was part of the auction, dubbed the "great anchor sandwich," and it sold for \$40,000.

"I will give a little extra with dessert if you know what I mean," Cooper said at the top of the event. "It could be a long, saucy lunch." Mike Myers jumped onstage to offer himself for a lunch date following the bid for Cooper and Lauer, and his was auctioned for \$50,000. □

Monica Potter wants to save her show 'Parenthood'

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Monica Potter is like most fans of NBC's "Parenthood" — she's in denial that the show is in its final season.

"I actually was talking to Jason Katims, our producer, creator about this," Potter said in a recent interview. "I'm like, 'What about Netflix? What about Amazon? What about Hulu?' But I honestly think this is the last season."

To bring the series back for this sixth season, cast members (including Craig T. Nelson, Peter Krause, Lauren Graham and Dax Shepard) agreed to reduce their appearances to save money. "We didn't want to just end it," she said. "It's such a fun show. We're all like a real family. We're gonna miss each other. It's not just a cast either, it's the crew. It's everybody. And we all have this sort of shorthand with each other."

"Parenthood," which airs

Thursdays (10 p.m. Eastern), follows the Bravermans, a large family living

"It was just like I fell in love with all these people right away, and it's a great fam-

"He favors my dad. He looks like my dad. His mannerisms, his voice sometimes, he's weird. He's really funny, he's sensitive. Supersmart, and he's kind and a genius. ... I'm trying to get to work with him on my next show," she laughed.

Potter has a development deal with NBC. She's hoping to do a sitcom "like 'Parenthood,' but a half-hour and a little bit lighter." When she's not busy filming the show, Potter travels to Cleveland, where she's renovating her childhood home.

She's also started a business with her sisters to make handcrafted seasonal items such as travel kits and room sprays, and she's hoping to create jobs in the community.

That interest stems from her love of DIY projects, which she "would make in my dining room, my lab, much to my husband's dismay." □



Actress Monica Potter poses for a portrait in New York to promote her NBC series, "Parenthood."

(Photo by Amy Sussman/Invision/AP)

in the Berkley, California, area.

Potter, 43, says she remembers clicking with the other actors and crew while filming the pilot.

ily. Craig T. Nelson," she sighs, "I adore that man." Potter said Nelson, who plays her father-in-law, reminds her of her father, who died in 2004.

Film Review:

In 'Nightcrawler,' Gyllenhaal unleashes his creepiness

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Dan Gilroy, writer-director of the Los Angeles noir "Nightcrawler," knew his star, Jake Gyllenhaal, had entered an adventurous new phase as an actor. But he still didn't foresee the sudden emergence of a hair tie.

"One day he goes, 'Can I put my hair up in a bun?'" recalls Gilroy. "And you're looking at him like, 'Oh my god, he's putting his hair up in a bun.'"

In "Nightcrawler," which opens in theaters Friday, Gyllenhaal plays Lou Bloom, one of the more fascinating cinematic creatures of recent years. He's an LA drifter who's anything but aimless.

He spends his days on the Internet, soaking up the motivational lingo of corporate America, and his nights scavenging in the Valley. Coyotes were an inspiration. With wide-eyed wonder and cutthroat ambition, Lou discovers the sordid business of freelance videography for local TV news, filming murders, fires and fatal car crashes.

The bun (which Gilroy, supportive of his actor, acknowledges was briefly "a

political football") is only one detail that further inflates Lou's unique creepiness, but it's a telling one. It's an example of Gyllen-

haal's eagerness for experimentation and newfound confidence as an actor.

"There's a big part of me that just stopped taking things so seriously," says Gyllenhaal. "Part of me

was like, (sniffing) 'That smells good. Let's go.'" "Nightcrawler," a darkly comic, enthrallingly disturbing portrait of our universal

the "Donnie Darko" star resolved to return to trusting his instincts. "It wasn't too difficult for me to say: I need to start

changes that happened as a result.

I left Los Angeles and moved to New York. I spent a lot of time with my family, more time than I ever had. I made a lot of changes in my life."

In an interview shortly after "Nightcrawler" premiered at the Toronto Film Festival, Gyllenhaal exudes earnestness and ease. Part of it is simply "feeling like my own man," he says. Gyllenhaal, 33, now views many of the directors he works with — "Prisoners" director Denis Villeneuve, Antoine Fuqua (who recently directed the boxing drama "Southpaw" with the actor) and Baltasar Kormakur (the upcoming mountain climbing thriller "Everest") — not paternalistically, but like "cinematic brothers."

"It was like freedom," he says of the shift. "There was more play."

In Gilroy, a longtime screenwriter ("The Bourne Legacy") and first-time director, Gyllenhaal says he found "a creative soul mate" he was willing to do anything for. Gyllenhaal lost considerable weight for the role, and in one scene, he was so carried away that he punched a mirror, injuring his hand.



Actor Jake Gyllenhaal poses for a portrait at the Four Seasons hotel to promote his film, "Nightcrawler," in Los Angeles.

(Photo by Dan Steinberg/Invision/AP)

haal's eagerness for experimentation and newfound confidence as an actor.

"There's a big part of me that just stopped taking things so seriously," says Gyllenhaal. "Part of me

appetite for lurid tragedy, marks a high point in Gyllenhaal's maturation. A few years ago, crossing 30 and coming off a few regrettable films like the big-budget "Prince of Persia,"

listening to that instinct again. I need to start reading and looking around for what inspires me," he says. "That doesn't mean just work. That means life in general. There were a lot of

Twisting plot of Orson Welles' last film nears an end

DOREEN CARVAJAL

© 2014 New York Times

PARIS - For more than four decades, Hollywood insiders, financiers and dreamers have been obsessed by the quest to recover "The Other Side of the Wind," the unfinished last film of Orson Welles. Cinema buffs consider it the most famous movie never released, an epic work by one of the great filmmakers.

Endless legal battles among the rights holders, including Welles' daughter, kept the 1,083 reels of negatives inside a warehouse in a gritty suburb of Paris despite numerous efforts to complete the film.

The quest may be over. A Los Angeles production company, Royal Road En-

tertainment, said on Tuesday that it had reached an agreement with the sometimes-warring parties to buy the rights.

The producers say they aim to have it ready for a screening in time for May 6, the 100th anniversary of Welles' birth, and to promote its distribution at the American Film Market in Santa Monica, California, next month.

It is the latest event in a saga marked by legal squabbles, clashing egos, the spiriting away of a working print and, briefly, the disappearance and recovery of the reels last summer after a storage company went bankrupt.

During the last 15 years of his life, Welles, who died in

1985, worked obsessively on the film, which chronicles a temperamental film director - much like him - who is battling with the Hollywood establishment to

finish an iconoclastic work. The cast included John Huston, Susan Strasberg, Lilli Palmer, Dennis Hopper and Peter Bogdanovich, who basically played himself, a

young up-and-coming director.

With the signing of the agreement, the next step is to ship the reels to Los Angeles, where veterans from the original project will carry on the next phase.

Bogdanovich said he is ready to carry out a pledge he once made to Welles in the 1970s. "He just turned to me rather casually during lunch and said, 'I want you to promise that you will finish the picture if anything happens to me.' I was shocked and said, 'Nothing is going to happen to you.'"

The challenge now is to follow Welles' unique style. "He did some very complicated editing before it was taken away from him," Bogdanovich said.



Filip Jan Rymza, of Royal Road Entertainment, looks at the negatives of Orson Welles' unreleased final film, "The Other Side of the Wind," in Paris in October, 2014.

(Dmitry Kostyukov/The New York Times)

Islamic State and Vietnam



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2014 New York Times

In May, I visited Vietnam and met with university students. After a week of being love-bombed by Vietnamese, who told me how much they admire America, want to work or study there and have friends and family living there, I couldn't help but ask myself: "How did we get this country so wrong? How did we end up in a war with Vietnam that cost so many lives and drove them into the arms of their most hated enemy, China?"

It's a long, complicated story, I know, but a big part of it was failing to understand that the core political drama of Vietnam was an indigenous nationalist struggle against colonial rule - not the embrace of global communism but the interpretation we imposed on it.

The North Vietnamese were both communists and nationalists - and still are. But the key reason we failed in Vietnam was that the communists managed to harness the Vietnamese nationalist narrative much more effectively than our South Vietnamese allies, who were too often seen as corrupt or illegitimate. The North Vietnamese managed to win (with the help of brutal coercion) more Vietnamese support not because most Vietnamese bought into Marx and Lenin but because Ho Chi Minh and his communist comrades were perceived to be the more authentic nationalists.

I believe something loosely akin to this is afoot in Iraq. The Islamic State, with its small core of jihadis, was able to seize so much non-jihadi Sunni territory in Syria and Iraq almost overnight not because most Iraqi and Syrian Sunnis suddenly bought into the Islamist narrative of Islamic State's self-appointed caliph. Most Iraqi and Syrian Sunnis don't want to marry off their daughters to a bearded Chechen fanatic, and more than a few of them pray five times a day and like to wash it down with a good Scotch.

They have embraced or resigned themselves to Islamic State because they were systematically abused by the pro-Shiite, pro-Iranian governments of Bashar Assad in Syria and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in Iraq - and because they see ISIS as a vehicle to revive Sunni nationalism and end Shiite oppression.

The challenge the United States faces in Iraq is trying to defeat Islamic State in tacit alliance with Syria and Iran, whose local Shiite allies are doing a lot of the fighting in Iraq and Syria. Iran is seen by many Syrian and Iraqi Sunnis as the "colonial power" dominating Iraq to keep it weak.

Obsessed with communism, America intervened in Vietnam's

civil war and took the place of the French colonialists. Obsessed with jihadism and 9/11, are we now doing the bidding of Iran and Syria in Iraq? Is jihadism to Sunni nationalism what communism was to Vietnamese nationalism: a fearsome ideological movement that triggers emotional reactions in the West - deliberately reinforced with videotaped beheadings - but that masks a deeper underlying nationalist movement that is to some degree legitimate and popular in its context?

I wonder what would have happened had Islamic State not engaged in barbarism and declared: "We represent the interests of Syrian and Iraqi Sunnis who have been brutalized by Persian-directed regimes of Damascus and Baghdad. If you think we're murderous, then just Google 'Bashar al-Assad and barrel bombs' or 'Iraqi Shiite militias and the use of power drills to kill Sunnis.'"

You'll see what we faced after you Americans left. Our goal is to secure the interests of Sunnis in Iraq and Syria. We want an autonomous 'Sunnistan' in Iraq just like the Kurds have a Kurdistan - with our own cut of Iraq's oil wealth." That probably would have garnered huge support from Sunnis everywhere.

Islamic State's magazine, Dabiq, recently published an article, "Reflections on the Final Crusade," (transcribed by the Middle East Media Research Institute), which argued that America's war on Islamic State only serves the interests of America's enemies: Iran and Russia. It quotes U.S. strategists as warning that Iran has created a "Shia-belt from Tehran through Baghdad to Beirut," a threat much greater than Islamic State.

Then why did Islamic State behead two U.S. journalists? Because it is a coalition of foreign jihadis, local Sunni tribes and former Iraqi Baath Party military officers. I suspect the jihadis in charge want to draw the U.S. into another "crusade" against Muslims - just like Osama bin Laden - to energize and attract Muslims from across the world and to overcome their main weakness, namely that most Iraqi and Syrian Sunnis are attracted to Islamic State simply as a vehicle of their sectarian resurgence, not because they want puritanical/jihadist Islam. There is no better way to get secular Iraqi and Syrian Sunnis to fuse with Islamic State than have America bomb them all.

Islamic State needs to be contained before it destabilizes islands of decency like Jordan, Kurdistan and Lebanon. But destroying it? That will be hard, because it's not just riding on some jihadi caliphate fantasy but also on deep Sunni nationalist grievances. Separating the two is the best way to defeat Islamic State, but the only way to separate mainstream Sunnis from jihadis is for mainstream Sunnis and Shiites to share power, to build a healthy interdependency from what is now an unhealthy one.

Chances of that? Very low. I hope President Barack Obama has thought this through. □



The American Dream Is Leaving America



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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The best escalator to opportunity in America is education. But a new study underscores that the escalator is broken.

We expect each generation to do better, but, currently, more young American men have less education (29 percent) than their parents than have more education (20 percent).

Among young Americans whose parents didn't graduate from high school, only 5 percent make it through college themselves. In other rich countries, the figure is 23 percent.

The United States is devoting billions of dollars to compete with Russia militarily, but maybe we should try to compete educationally. Russia now has the largest percentage of adults with a university education of any industrialized country - a position once held by the United States, although we're plunging in that roster.

These figures come from the annual survey of education from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD, and it should be a shock to Americans.

A basic element of the American dream is equal access to education as the lubricant of social and economic mobility. But the American dream seems to have emigrated because many coun-

tries do better than the United States in educational mobility, according to the OECD study.

As recently as 2000, the United States still ranked second in the share of the population with a college degree.

Now we have dropped to fifth. Among 25-to-34-year-olds - a glimpse of how we will rank in the future - we rank 12th, while once-impooverished South Korea tops the list.

A new Pew survey finds that Americans consider the greatest threat to our country to be the growing gap between the rich and poor. Yet we have constructed an education system, dependent on local property taxes, that provides great schools for the rich kids in the suburbs who need the least help, and broken, dangerous schools for inner-city children who desperately need a helping hand.

Too often, America's education system amplifies not opportunity but inequality.

My dad was a World War II refugee who fled Ukraine and Romania and eventually made his way to France. He spoke perfect French, and Paris would have been a natural place to settle. But he felt that France was stratified and would offer little opportunity to a penniless Eastern European refugee, or even to his children a generation later, so he set out for the United States. He didn't speak English, but, on arrival in 1951, he bought a copy of the Sunday edition of The New York Times and began to teach himself - and then he worked his way through Reed College and the University of Chicago, earning a Ph.D. and becoming a university professor.

He rode the American dream to success; so did his only child. But while he was right in 1951 to bet on opportunity in America rather than Europe, these days he would perhaps be wrong. Researchers find economic and educational mobility are now greater in Europe than in America.

That's particularly sad because, as my Times colleague Eduardo

Porter noted last month, egalitarian education used to be America's strong suit. European countries excelled at first-rate education for the elites, but the United States led the way in mass education.

By the mid-1800s, most U.S. states provided a free elementary education to the great majority of white children.

In contrast, as late as 1870, only 2 percent of British 14-year-olds were in school.

Then the United States was the first major country, in the 1930s, in which a majority of children attended high school. By contrast, as late as 1957, only 9 percent of 17-year-olds in Britain were in school.

Until the 1970s, we were pre-eminent in mass education, and Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz of Harvard University argue powerfully that this was the secret to America's economic rise. Then we blew it, and the latest OECD report underscores how the rest of the world is eclipsing us. In effect, the United States has become 19th-century Britain: We provide superb education for elites, but we falter at mass education.

In particular, we fail at early education. Across the OECD, an average of 70 percent of 3-year-olds are enrolled in education programs. In the United States, it's 38 percent.

In some quarters, there's a perception that American teachers are lazy. But the OECD report indicates that American teachers work far longer hours than their counterparts abroad.

Yet American teachers earn 68 percent as much as the average American college-educated worker, while the OECD average is 88 percent.

Fixing the education system is the civil rights challenge of our era. A starting point is to embrace an ethos that was born in America but is now an expatriate: that we owe all children a fair start in life in the form of access to an education escalator.

Let's fix the escalator. □

No Carving Is Necessary for 'Pumpkinsteins'



Andres Cruz carries harvested "Pumpkensteins" that are ready for packing and shipment at Cinagro Farms in Fillmore, Calif. After four years of experimentation to perfect a process for growing watermelons and then pumpkins into molded shapes, Dinghera is cashing in with Halloween sales.
(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

JENNIFER MEDINA

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FILLMORE, Calif. - Like Victor Frankenstein, Tony Dinghera was determined to bring a new creature to life. Though he was fairly new to farming, Dinghera saw profit to be made in strangely shaped squash. So he created a "pumpkinstein."

Grown in a plastic mold, the pumpkins bear the distinctive face of the Frankenstein monster, and Dinghera has harvested roughly 5,500 of them this year. With a slight smile, a wide button nose, a slightly furrowed brow and ears sticking out just slightly, the pumpkins are easy to mistake for something carved from wax.

"People never believe it's real the first time they see it; they all want to touch it to make sure," Dinghera said, holding one of his creations on his 40-acre organic farm north of Los Angeles, as workers harvested cilantro and dill one recent morning. "The point was to make something that would get attention." Their distinctive, if unnatural, shape is so far a major

success. Dinghera sold out his crop to suppliers months ago, offering the pumpkins wholesale for \$75 each. Retailers expect each to fetch \$100 or more in the weeks leading up to Halloween.

Halloween has grown beyond the simple days of trick-or-treating and into a \$7 billion business, according to the National Retail Federation, as retailers go to greater lengths each year to try to surpass the previous season.

Just over \$2 billion was spent last year on candy alone, according to industry figures. And long ago it stopped being just a sweets-fueled holiday for children. Among the biggest money earners are adult costumes, with costs typically ranging from \$30 to well over \$100. And last year, consumers spent \$310 million on costumes for their pets.

Decorations now account for nearly a third of Halloween spending, and the fast-growing category is one of the most competitive aspects of the industry. Cue pumpkinstein and Dinghera, who got his start

in oddly shaped produce several years ago, after coming across a website that featured square watermelons grown in Japan. In 2010, Dinghera began experimenting with plastic molds and watermelon

too big, they would crack. After trying dozens of seed varieties and experimenting with how much sun the crops received, he produced a sweet, crisp, red-fleshed, cube-shaped watermelon. Elated, he moved on to a heart-shaped mold.

This year, Dinghera sold the square and heart-shaped watermelons for \$40 each, primarily through local upscale markets. At the same time, he figured out how to use a mold to imprint logos: Whole Foods received its own branded melons, the letters perfectly pressed into the rind.

It took Dinghera 27 varieties of pumpkin - and roughly \$400,000 - before he found the right one to take the monster shape.

"I started playing around and realized pretty quickly this wasn't going to be a quick thing," he said. "But I also realized that if I could really figure it out, I would have something special."

And something that could make a lot of money.

This year, he estimates he produced 5,500 pumpkin heads. But in the coming year, he plans to turn over almost his entire farm to the endeavor, aiming to harvest between 30,000

In the food-obsessed corners of Southern California, it is hardly unusual for a single piece of produce to cost well into the double digits. But to Andrea Moss, who has been willing to fork over \$30 for foraged mushrooms, Dinghera's creations look like too much of a splurge. "They certainly caught my eye," Moss, 43, said as she shopped at Erewhon, an organic market in Calabasas, a wealthy Los Angeles suburb, where the pumpkins were being sold for \$100 (by pre-order only). "But looking amazing won't make me spend that much right now."

Dinghera has caught people trying to sneak onto the farm in the middle of the night four times - presumably to steal pumpkins or to try to figure out how they are grown. He has turned down offers to be bought out by major farms, he said, but is considering licensing the molds to other growers next year.

His sales pitch to retailers is simple: Even if you think the price is too steep, customers will come in just to see the oddly shaped fruits.

"Most people aren't going to walk into a market, buy this on a whim and then decide to eat it,"



Tony Dinghera, owner of Cinagro Farms, selects some of his "Pumpkensteins" for shipment to a distributor, in Fillmore, Calif.
(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

varieties. Was this mold too sharp, that plastic too strong, the shade too dark? If the fruits were too small, they would not take the shape, but if they were

and 40,000 pumpkinsteins. Cultivating them is easier than watermelons, Dinghera said, because nobody is concerned about how a Halloween pumpkin tastes.

Dinghera said. "But when it's an event - especially if it's an event involving their children - people are willing to spend a lot more money." □